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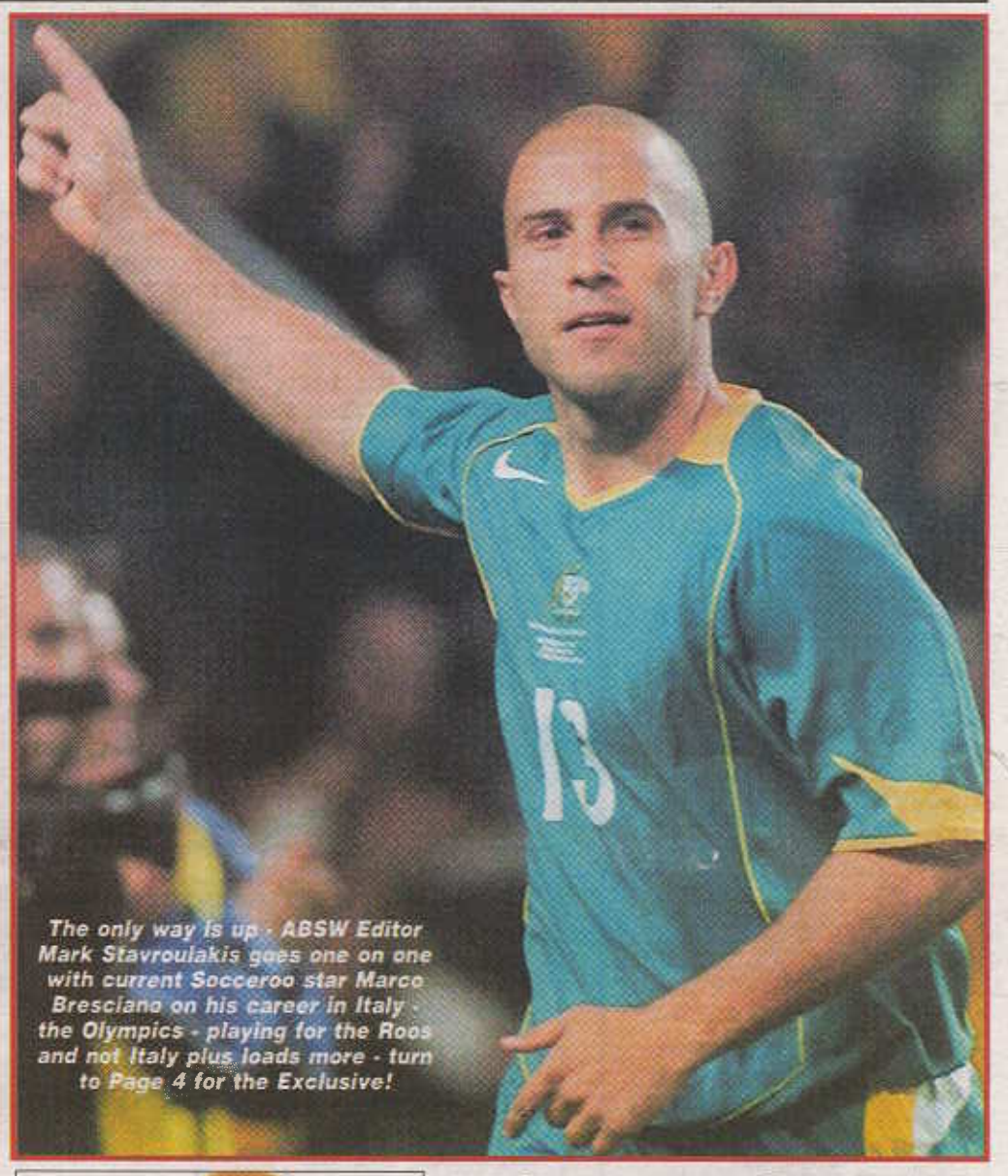
BRESCIANO: "Best is yet to come"



The only way is up - ABSW Editor Mark Stavroulakis goes one on one with current Socceroo star Marco Bresciano on his career in Italy - the Olympics - playing for the Roos and not Italy plus loads more - turn to Page 4 for the Exclusive!

Full Euro 2004 wrap on pages 12 & 13

GOLDEN ERA SET TO HIT SOCCER NSW

Exclusive by Mark Stavroulakis

In by far one of the most appealing movements in the history of the Australian game, the nations wealthiest soccer federation SOCCER NSW announced key plans to upgrade its competition for season 2004-2005.

Sixteen teams have been locked in for the new competition set to kick-off on the 20th of November with four notable appointments.

Former National League clubs Sydney Olympic, Sydney United, Wollongong Wolves and Marconi have thrown their hats in the ring to makeshift NSW's elite league into that of a super style competition.

The four known traditional Australian clubs will join eleven current NSW Premier League sides plus the winner of this year's Winter Super League to ignite next year's league.

The scenario of the way in which the league will run is rather complex but no doubt will add some spice into the state of football in this state.

Premiership Season
(20th Nov 2004 – 20th March 2005)

-SOCCER NSW will start off its new competition on the 20th of November with all 16 sides playing each other once in a 15 match league – this will be known as the Premiership season.

During the Premiership season, a three-week Christmas break from the 18th December – 9th of January will take place as part of a recess for the league and its players.

All Premiership matches will conclude on the 20th of March with a new outlook that will make the first placed side right down to the last team fight for as many points as possible during the first period of the season.

*The top eight sides that finish in the Premiership season will be allocated to a new pot called the Championship group while the remaining eight will be moved to another group labelled the Challenger's group.

Championship & Challenger's Group
(3rd April 2005 – 15th May 2005)

-This is where the competition look's interesting; the championship group will have seven rounds where each club will play each-other once, with the final four heading towards next year's Premier League semi-finals.

Supporters might argue that a certain club, say Olympic will face Marconi yet again in this group following their round one clash.

Rest assured, a fair system has been put in place with any team playing each other again, a reverse order will take place allowing the other side to play at their home-ground.

Continued on Page 6

ASA ANNOUNCE OFFICIAL APL BIDS

Page 2

Van Stratten aims for success in Italy

Remember Jess Van Stratten? Read more on Page 8 on our future Socceroo keeper

AND THE NSW PREMIER LEAGUE WINNER IS...

Turn to page 16 & 17 for the low-down on this year's 2004 NSW Premier Grand-Final League

SOCCER NSW

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aussie*abroad*

BY Mark Stavroulakis & Daniel Kuziow

West Bromwich Albion have dropped their interest in Manchester City's out-of-contract midfielder Danny Tiatto.

The Baggies were considering the Australia international, but are now focusing on other midfield targets after Tiatto suffered a fractured jaw on international duty last month. Meanwhile, Tiatto's agent says Cardiff have yet to follow up the interest they registered in the Australia international a year ago.

"Cardiff haven't approached him yet this summer," revealed Tiatto's brother Frank. "There was some interest in him from Cardiff probably 12 months ago, but we haven't had any new approach as yet."

★ ★ ★ ★

Southampton are preparing an offer for Birmingham City winger Stan Lazaridis.

The Australia international is entering the final year of his contract and his agent, John Viola, admitted: "It's natural that there will be a lot of interest in him and we're disappointed the new offer hasn't yet been made." Saints boss Paul Sturrock is ready to table a £800,000 offer for Lazaridis, who is also being tracked by Everton and Fulham.

★ ★ ★ ★

Penang have released Aussie midfielder Boris Ovcin.

The ex-Melbourne Knights player failed to impress Penang chiefs after arriving earlier this season from Victoria's Premier League.

"As a foreigner, he is expected to be better than our local players. But he failed to create an impact," said FA of Penang (FAP) secretary Mohd Junid. "A mutual agreement with Ovcin was reached at the end of last month."

★ ★ ★ ★

Geylang United coach Scott O'Donell has handed trials to out-of-contract Northern Spirit midfielder Wayne O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan is being lined up by Geylang's Aussie coach as a replacement for Milan Blagojevic, who was released after suffering a knee injury.

O'Donell has also released Aussie-based defender Danny Hill and last season's top scorer Chang Hui in a controversial move.

He told Timesport: "They are not the scapegoats for our poor performances. The responsibility for that lies with all of us.

"We hope to bring in new players to turn the season around and for the AFC Cup quarter-finals in September." Aussie striker Alex Duric remains on Geylang's books.

★ ★ ★ ★

Millwall chairman Theo Paphitis has slapped a £4 million price-tag on his Aussie midfielder Tim Cahill.

Paphitis is determined to hold onto Cahill, who is entering the final year of his current contract at the New Den.

Charlton Athletic, Aston Villa and Rangers are among clubs to be chasing the free scoring midfielder, who has been banging in goals for fun for Australia at the Oceania Nations Cup in Adelaide this month.

Currently on holidays in Sydney catching up with family and friends, ABSW correspondent Stuart Jones will do a special exclusive story on the wonder kid from Oz – stay tuned

★ ★ ★ ★

First division side Cardiff City are yet to make a move for Danny Tiatto, despite reports linking him to the club.

The tough-tackling midfielder was on City's wanted list last season, but Lennie Lawrence has not yet shown any sign of renewing his interest in the Australian.

Tiatto's agent, his brother Frank, said last week that the Bluebirds did make initial inquiries last season but the move did not materialise.

The 30-year-old was recently released by Man City after six years with the club, but Lawrence has not followed up his interest.

"Cardiff haven't approached him this summer as yet," said Frank Tiatto to ccfcsleepinggiant.com.

"There was some interest in him from Cardiff probably about 12 months ago but we haven't had any new approach as yet.

"Myself and Danny are taking inquiries directly and there have been inquiries about him from First Division clubs and from the Premiership.

"I will be in the UK later this month to speak to interested clubs and discuss where best Danny's future lies and we hope to tie things up within in the three weeks."

★ ★ ★ ★

Bayern Munich are reported to have joined Middlesbrough, Valencia and Juventus in the hunt to sign Leeds striker Mark Viduka.

Bayern are ready to bid up to £5m for Aussie international Viduka - a player Boro themselves are hoping to open talks with.

But both interested clubs will need the 28-year-old to take a considerable pay-cut before any deal goes through.

Juventus, though, could outbid them both _but only if new manager Fabio Capello loses out on his number one target, Inter Milan's Christian Vieri.

Capello is hoping to lure Italy's top striker to Turin, but if he fails on that front, he knows Juve would be an attractive proposition to Viduka, who has long admitted his interest in a move to the continent.

★ ★ ★ ★

A 15-year-old from South Australia has earned a contract with English Premier League side Portsmouth.

Hayden Doyle, who has been training at the Adelaide Academy of the European Football Institute, will join Harry Redknapp's side in January, and Institute managing director Michael Kathopoulis believes he has every chance of doing well.

"When he's on the pitch he's just composed, distributed so easy, he's not a dirty player he's just all round," Kathopoulis told ABC Sport.

"That's why he's going to make it. Getting a contract overseas is a very, very, very hard thing. There's millions of kids playing over in England and this kid comes from another country to take their spot."

★ ★ ★ ★

Belgian outfit Lierse are reportedly keen on signing current Socceroo David Zdrilic with the striker out of contract with Aberdeen.

The 30-year-old Australian international moved to Pittodrie summer but may now decide to move on to pastures new.

The Jupiler League outfit have turned their attentions to the former Walsall front-man after missing out on Alen Skoro.

Lierse were keen to bring in Skoro but he instead chose to sign a deal to join Austrian outfit Grazer AK instead.

★ ★ ★ ★

Yeovil Town boss Gary Johnson is delighted with the capture of Perth Glory winger Adrian Caceres.

Former Latvia coach Johnson confirmed the signing last week, telling the club's website: "We have managed to agree terms with Adrian and his agent.

"We are very happy to secure his services.

"Adrian has been to England before when he was at Southampton as a young player. He played one game against Charlton in the Premiership when he was aged 19.

He has had a very good scoring record at Youth and Reserve team levels at Southampton.

"He left Southampton when a change of manager made him decide to go back to Australia to try his luck over there.

"England is somewhere where he has always wanted to play football and he was very keen to join Yeovil. He is quick and has a typical Argentinean skills and he will add extra pace and power to our squad."

Aussies Abroad Top Scorers

Danny ALLSOPP	Hull City	15
Tim CAHILL	Millwall	12
Mark VIDUKA	Leeds United	12
Harry KEWELL	Liverpool	11
Marco BRESCIANO	Parma	9
Sharon BLACK	Fortuna Hjorring	9
John MAISANO	Greenock Morton	8
Scott CHIPPERFIELD	FC Basel	8
Saso RADULOVIC	RW Oberhausen	8
John ALOISI	Osasuna	7
Joel GRIFFITHS	Neuchatel Xamax	7
Ante MILICIC	Pahang	7
Brett HOLMAN	Excelsior	7
David ZDRILIC	Aberdeen	6
Ante MILICIC	Pahang	6
Archie THOMPSON	Lierse	6
Paul AGOSTINO	1860 Munich	5
Josip SKOKO	Genclerbirligi	5
Andy VLAHOS	Cercle Brugge	5
Danny INVINCIBILE	Kilmarnock	5
Joel PORTER	Hartlepool United	5
Max VIERI	Napoli	5
Jon ANGELUCCI	Singapore Armed Forces	5
Christophe TEINERT	FSV Mainz 05	4
Dylan MACALLISTER	Brann Bergen	4
Brett EMERTON	Blackburn Rovers	3
Marco MAISANO	Greenock Morton	3
Chris COYNE	Luton Town	3
Luke WILKSHIRE	Bristol City	3
Caitlin MUNOZ	Boston Renegades	3
Alex DURIC	Geylang United	3

20 bids - 8 up for grabs in new APL

New unveilings in next season's elite competition

The ASA will look at 20 expressions of interest and will choose eight as part of a mini tournament that could run as long as three days with a knockout scenario added to the rules with the winner representing Oceania for the World Club Championships.

As ABSW stated last week, the pre-tournament is set to kick-off in mid January with the proper competition being set for August 2005.

Its believed that all eight teams selected for this tournament will play-off a three day series at a particular venue which could be Suncorp, Aussie Stadium or the Telstra Dome.

Fifteen bids have looked rather strong in the eyes of ASA CEO John O'Neill with expressions being seen from all parts of the nation spanning from Darwin, Carins, Townsville to Canberra.

O'Neill himself has finished updating his officials roster by appointing his former ARU right hand man Matt Carroll in charge of turning the eight team style competition from a myth to reality.

Its been noted that players will receive a healthy sum for playing in the competition next year with salaries averaging from $75,000 - $100,000 for the 21 round season plus the play-offs.

Again, ABSW has the strong belief that already Foxtel and SBS are on the verge of signing a lucrative TV deal that will see Frank Lowy's new revolution on the box finally for soccer fans across Australia.

Talks have also been discussed through the English FA by O'Neill with an Ashes style home and away match scenario with England ala the cricket.

All has been put in place on blue print as to what we will expect from now until the announcement of the new teams, but the pressure has certainly hit O'Neill who will have the tough task of getting all this to work just in time for next year's kick-off.

July School Holidays Soccer Camps starting up

Next month, (July 5-9 in fact), the "Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps" kick-off for the School Holidays.

The live telecasting direct out of Portugal of the current European Championships which blasted off last week-end, plus the last World Cup Finals, have generated an enormous interest for children to take up playing Soccer.

Already kids at school are talking about their newly-found Soccer heroes.

The new 'Nike' television commercial of a friendly match between Portugal and Brasil, not only is electrifying, but highlights just how exciting the game of Soccer really is. Today, more than ever, Australian school kids are fully acquainted with such names as Beckham, Roberto Carlos, Ronaldinho, Diouf, Morientes, Raul, Recoba, Silva, Ashley Cole, Robbie Keane, Hong, Inamato, Klose, Figo, Owen, Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Fernando Hierro, Vieri, Totti, etc.

The Euro 2004 Championships as well as the last World Cup, have infected thousands of new Australian school kids to Soccer who now are rapidly developing a stronger passion for the game. 'The Game' that's believed to be played in heaven.

With the July School Holidays just around the corner, where better than to get the kids out of the house and enrolled into the "Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps" at one of the 15 centres across Sydney.

Australia's largest and most reputable Soccer clinics, are "THE PACIFIC UMBRO SOCCER CAMPS" having now been established just over 22 years. The Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps have been strategically set up at 15 geographically-convenient centres stretching the vast region of Sydney.

"The Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps" have been organised at Canterbury, Caringbah, Castle Hill, Chatswood, Eastwood, Emu Plains, Frenchs Forest, Hunters Hill, Hurstville, Kellyville, Kirrawee, Mona Vale, Pennant Hills, Quakers Hill, St Clair and at St Ives.

Each individual Centre has Indoor facilities in case of wet weather.

These meticulously planned quality Soccer Camps over the past two decades have been well designed and fine-tuned by the highly experienced Technical Director, Mr Richard Alagich.

Richard Alagich Technical Director

Mr Alagich stated to *ABSW* : "I'm very proud of our Soccer Camps and the strong reputation we have tenaciously worked for to build up over these long years.

"I confess it has been very hard work as we have consciously strived to give quality, as well as excellent value, to all young students enrolling in our Camps.

Mr Alagich went on to add: "In recent years our reputation in coaching youngsters has reached overseas including Japan. The Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps have been specifically structured to cater for boys and girls from the ages of 6 through to 14 years," Mr Alagich elaborated.

Each Camp offers 20 hours of technical and tactical, coaching, and each enrolled student receives a Pacific Umbro Soccer Camp T-Shirt plus free drinks.

The highly experienced and well-known Fred Wall, the Camps' Manager and leading Youth Goalkeeping coach, during the coming July Camps will be based at the St Ives Soccer Camp centre.

Special discounts are available for families, Groups or Club registrations. The four hour daily Camps kick-off on Monday July 5 and go though till Friday July 9.

Registrations to attend these excellent July School holiday Soccer Camps close on 2nd July 2004. Enrolments must be fully completed by this last date to ensure your child's acceptance into one of the above 15 and well situated Soccer Camps.

For further information, booking enquiries and registrations, please make contact by phone the 'Pacific Umbro Soccer Camp' offices on 02-9977 2992 or by Faxing to 02-9977-0376.

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Richard Alagich's Soccer Book Reviews

"FIFA ... has no doubt that this well-thought and illustrated handbook will prove to be a great help for theoretical and practical training. We have to congratulate the author on the work, and thank him for the service he has rendered football ... We warmly recommend (this book) to every football fan..."

from the foreward by JS Blatter, FIFA

"We have studied this publication with great interest. (it) can be recommended especially to active youth coaches, be they professionals or amateurs. We would like to congratulate Richard Alagich on ... this project ..."

Walter Gagg, head of Technical Department, FIFA

"This book is the one most coaches ought to be looking for. It tells you in a simple and easy-to-follow yet analytical way how a footballer is fashioned — from a raw minor who has never kicked a ball in his life to a young adult, fully equipped and ready to play at the highest professional level ..."

Les Murray, SBS Television

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EASTWOOD	— Epping Boys High School Vimiera Road, Eastwood
EMU PLAINS	— Nepean High School Great Western H'way, Emu Plains
FRENCHS FOREST	— The Forest High School Frenchs Forest Rd, Frenchs Forest
HUNTERS HILL	— Hunters Hill High School Reiby Road, Hunters Hill
HURSTVILLE	— Hurstville Boys High School Kenwyn Street, Hurstville
KELLYVILLE	— Kellyville High School York Road, Kellyville
KIRRAWEE	— Kirrawee High School Hunter Street, Kirrawee
MONA VALE	— Kitchner Park Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale
PENNANT HILLS	— Pennant Hills High School Laurence Street, Pennant Hills
QUAKERS HILL	— Quakers Hill High School Lalor Road, Quakers Hill
ST CLAIR	— St Clair High School Endeavour Avenue, St Clair

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3 plus Children	$145	$120	$ 95

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A group of budding stars at a Pacific Umbro Soccer camp location.

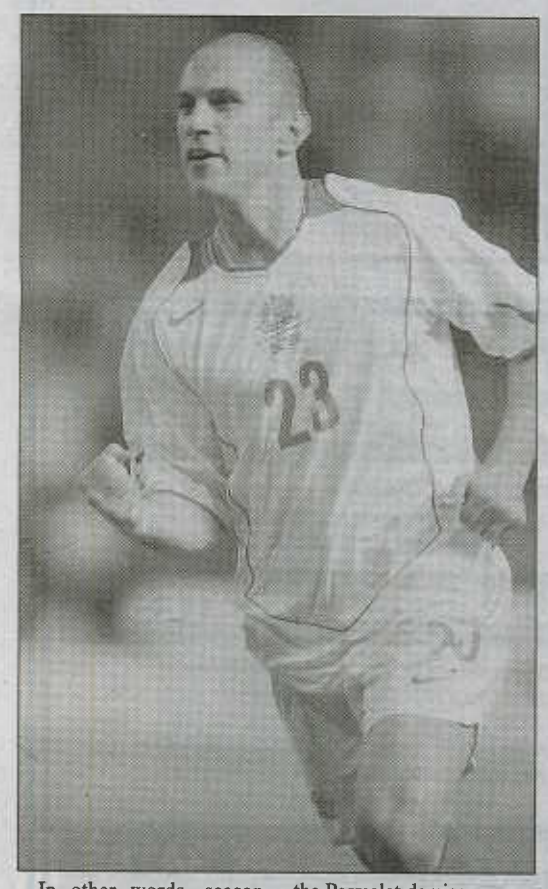
King Marco Bresciano believes best is yet to come

Exclusive by Mark Stavroulakis

The name Marco Bresciano this year has become one hot household name in Australia.

Almost non-existent a few years back, the current Socceroo and Parma star has grabbed the plaudits this season for being Australia's best player by far abroad.

At 24, the shaved head assassin has managed to knock up nine goals this year for Serie A club Parma while the Melbourne born midfielder has also turned in man of the match performances for his club side.



In other words, season 2003-2004 in the Italian league has been a dream year for King Marco.

"On a personal level, this year by far has been my best at both domestic and international football. I was pretty pleased with the way I performed, especially at Parma. Being able to notch up a few goals in a league that is known as one of the toughest in scoring goals was unbelievable. I know that Italy as a country has the best defenders in the world, scoring in important games especially, really put me on the map".

One game that Bresciano will long remember was the thrilling three-two away victory at the Stadia Olimpico against Super Coppa winners Lazio where the Aussie midfielder scored a monumental double.

"I think by far my most precious game this year was the victory away to Lazio. It's always a hard task in getting three points in Rome but we stuck it out and I managed to score the first and winning goal to get the points. I couldn't believe my luck; I guess I was at the right place at the right time".

After transferring from now Serie B club Empoli to Parma for an Australian record transfer fee of $23 million, Bresciano did experience some turbulent times at the side that could have folded half-way through the season due to its financial problems it experienced with the Parmalat demise

"It was obviously a tough task for any of the players to go through especially after being told mid-way through the year that all the team could have folded from the Serie A. We did not know whether we were coming or going but full credit to the players and coaching staff for pulling through and achieving the unachievable. No one believed that we would finish as high as we did, narrowly missing out on a Champions League spot to Inter in the final match. Our coach Claudio Prindelli played a massive role in keeping the players focused during those tough times".

Asked what the financial situation was at the moment with Parma, Marco stated that there was light at the end of the tunnel.

"At this stage we are aware that there are a few businessmen and companies that have shown a keen interest in investing in the club. It has not been set in concrete yet but nevertheless I have a strong belief that the Serie A will not let a club such as Parma go down".

After experiencing a massive season with a number of notable performances for Parma, many clubs from Italy, Spain and England were alerted to the former AIS graduate's abilities on the soccer pitch.

"At this stage I have three years left on my contract with the club and I would like to spend them there. As I said earlier I had a great start to the season with Parma and we did reach Europe this year so that is something new to look forward to. Obviously if there are offers down the track we will sit and discuss them but I just want to get the ball rolling once more with the club".

After bursting into the Socceroo scene during the Confederations Cup in 2001 with his dazzling displays in midfield, this new found exposure of being Australia's most consistent player has not fancied Bresciano one bit.

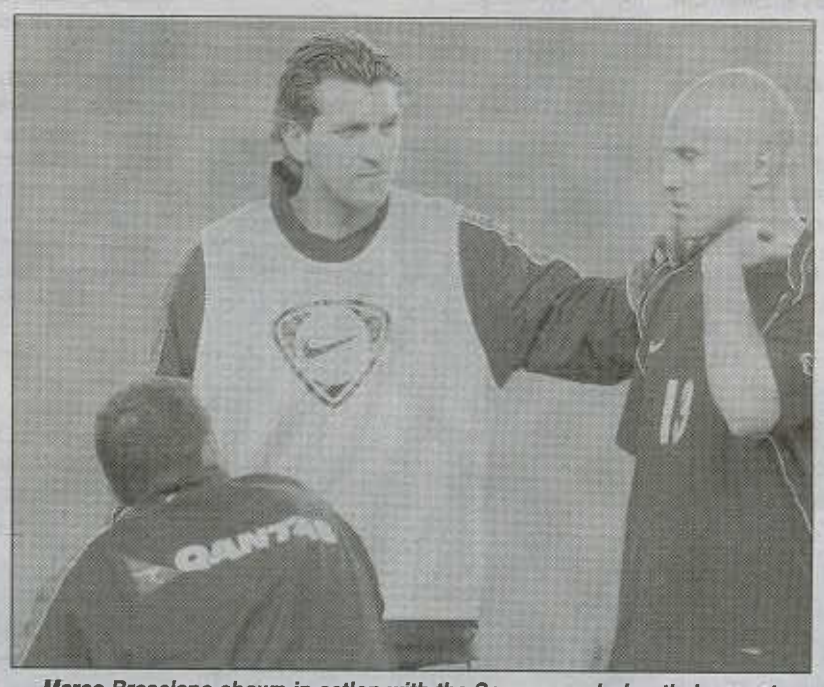
"Its good to get the media behind you when you play well but I'm really just taking it all as it comes. I want to keep my consistency with both club and country that will ultimately get me higher in my performances and in various competitions".

There has been one qualm however by the ace midfielder about the lack of respect the Italian league has achieved over the years in Australia in regards to comparing it with the English Premier League.

Marco believes that the league itself has and is still the strongest and best of them all.

"I understand that many Australians like the English Premier League through its sheer entertainment and excitement but that's not to say that the Italian league falls behind. You look at the intensity the game has through tactics and skill and many will realise that the Serie A is the best league. There are so many quality stars playing in the Serie A, hopefully it gains more of a popularity boost here soon".

It is without doubt that Socceroo coach Frank Farina will springboard Bresciano as a key figure for his squad in the road for World Cup qualification to Germany in 2006. The Parma star alongside a number of new talents emerging such as Tim Cahill, Adrian Madaschi, Patrick Kisnorbo and the resurgence of long time friend Vince Grella have changed the squad's tactics entirely.



Marco Bresciano shown in action with the Socceroos during their recent friendly matches against Turkey and the OFC Nations Cup clashes in Adelaide.

"I know that I am improving match by match with the Socceroos and I feel as though the more games we play the better we become as a team. Frank Farina has been really good to the players and we have in turn shown the same respect back in wanting to play for the jersey. I know that the team has the potential to go places, hopefully 2006 will be the year the Roos break their World Cup hoodoo. In regards to the new batch of youngsters coming through, it is what this country needed. Australia is blessed with developing quality players and through the new rotational system Frank wants to put in place, we will surely see some new players strut their stuff".

One important agenda Bresciano had to assess was whether or not playing for the Olyroos as an over-age player would be on the cards in August for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

"I was keen on playing with boys in Athens and I spoke to Frank about this but after coming back from a strong season, my main aim was to rest up and hit back harder than ever in the Serie A again next year. I know that next season must be a huge year for me so I'm all focused for that at the moment".

With so much stress put on any professional soccer players plate, many people wondered what was that remedy these guys shared during their breaks through various matches. One such hobby that the talented midfielder had a passion for was his Playstation 2 and in that the most played and crazed soccer game of all – Pro Evolution 3 of which Bresciano is apart of and almost lifelike in the game. It's a shame the stats were not the same as his real life abilities.

"I always get pumped when I play this game but its unreal seeing myself on the computer screen. I try so hard in scoring goals and playing well in the game it scares me. It's a great hobby nonetheless to have as it takes your mind off things".

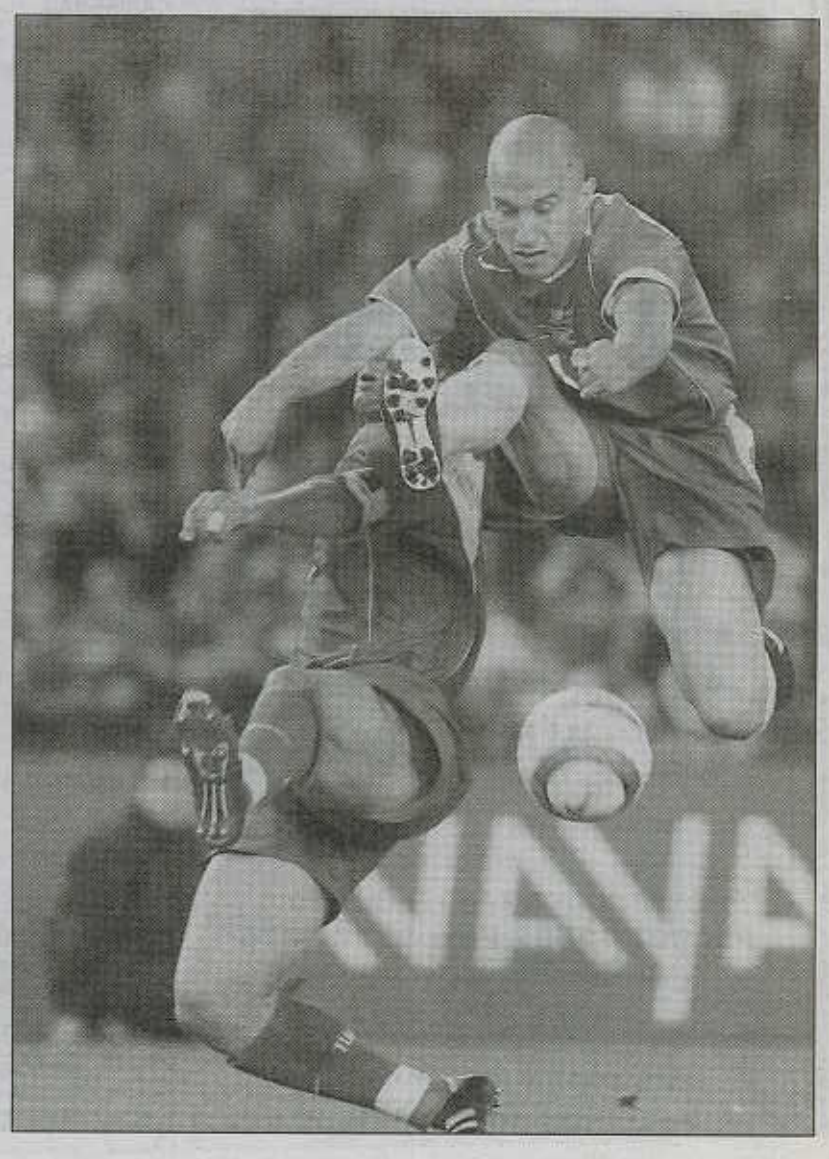
Getting back on track with soccer in this country, the Melbournian was quick to state that he has not missed a heartbeat with the on-going's of the Australian game in Italy thanks to the internet and papers he has received.

One such issue 'Bresh' hopes will be achieved in the next year is the new 8-league APL competition set to kick off next year.

"Put it this way, we have a great new board that have shown in their respective business they are successful. With these guys in charge, I'm quietly confident that the game will lift its image after the new year".

Currently on holidays in his home city of Melbourne with friends and family, Bresciano will be jetting off back to Italy for pre-season mid July to tackle yet another hectic season in Europe.

Rest assured, the name Marco Bresciano will yet again feature in news bulletins, papers and television screens across the world as the new star of Australian football looks set to establish an even more major role as an ambassador of the game in Europe.



Australia U23 to tour Switzerland

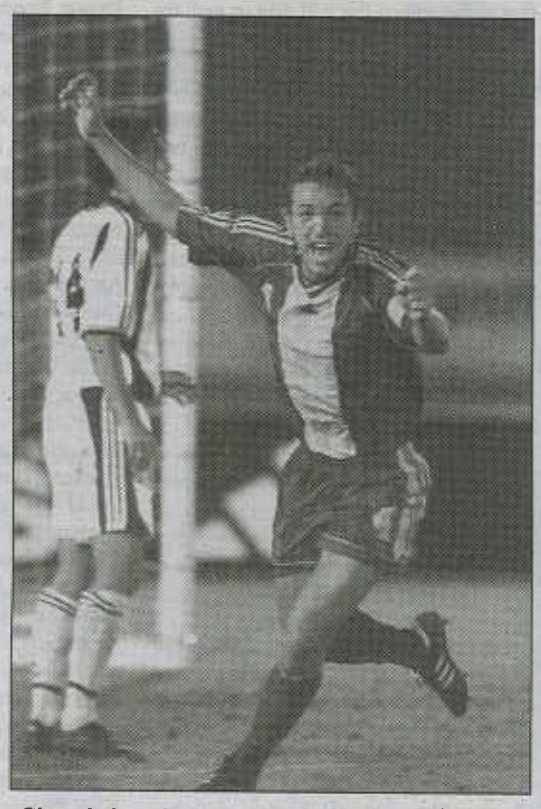
Australia U23 will tour Switzerland next week as they prepare for the upcoming Olympics campaign.

The squad will spend a two-week camp in Switzerland and coach Frank Farina said:

"We'll leave for Switzerland this week for just a little under two weeks, we'll have a camp there with possibly two or three games in that time. "We'll head back to Australia and we'll have 10-12 days back to here, and in July we'll be heading off again and won't be back obviously till after the games."

Meanwhile, Farina has admitted it will be difficult for Swiss-based defender Ljubo Milicevic to make the squad. Milicevic is struggling to overcome a groin injury, which was picked up in the January qualifiers.

"I think there is a chance (of him being available), but I think he is battling also. It will be tough for him, because he is coming off the back of having absolutely no involvement on the park since the January qualifiers in terms in football in general, and he has had a little touch up operation, so it will be very tough for him."



Olympic heartbreak: Skipper Ljubo Milicevic is in doubt for the Olyroos in Athens.

Three high profile players are set to make the trek to Greece for the Athens 2004 games and Socceroo skipper Craig Moore has been pencilled in as a possible recruit.

Gun attacking midfielder Marco Bresciano has stated that he cannot make the trip (read why on page 4 for an exclusive interview with King Marco).

Brett Emerton, Josip Skoko and Mark Schwarzer have been rumoured to be on the over-age list for Farina who will announce his squad some time this week.

The draw for the 2004 Men's Olympic Football Tournament has been announced with matches for the Australia U23s against South American champions Argentina, European Under 21 Championship runners-up Serbia & Montenegro, plus Tunisia, who finished group winners in what was arguably the toughest group in the African qualifiers. "It's a pretty impressive group when you look at it," said an enthusiastic Australia U23 coach Frank Farina.

"However I have always maintained there is no easy group in any of these competitions."

"It's an exciting one for us and I'm sure all the players will even be stepping up another gear in there thought processes and expectations after the draw." Farina has no doubts that progressing is possible, but will not be easy with each team there on merit and not just there to make up the numbers.

"I think all of them will be very, very tough. There is no doubt about it. We've already played Tunisia and seen the way that they play and they beat us 1-0 last month. "Every team will be expecting or hoping to progress and we're no different; we've got ambitions to do well.

"I wouldn't say one game is going to be tougher than the other, because it depends on how things go in your first game. There are a lot of factors that come into it." Farina's next task will be decide the final squad for the Games, including the possibility of including three over-age players.

"Pretty much so," Farina replied when asked if he made up his mind on the squad.

"That will be announced a little bit later on. "I have pretty much narrowed it down in my mind to what we want, just hopefully everyone will be available in terms of injuries and fitness."

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Big gains for Oceania countries on FIFA ranking

This month's FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking is dominated by a raft of World Cup qualifying matches on various continents and the countless games played in the build-up to EURO 2004 in Portugal.

At the top, Brazil continues to hold a healthy lead over France and Spain, thanks to their crucial victory over Argentina. Mexico (4th, up 2) now heads the chasing pack, closely followed by Argentina, the Netherlands and Turkey (all 5th).

However, most of this month's movers come from Oceania, where no fewer than 35 qualifying matches for the 2006 World Cup have taken place in recent weeks. Australia (49th, up 40) take a giant leap and return to the top 50 after nearly a year's absence and a lengthy period of inactivity, and despite being eliminated from the World Cup qualifiers, New Zealand (80th, up 15) also make progress up the ranking.

The Oceanian surprise packages, the Solomon Islands (130th, up 24) and Vanuatu (142nd, up 19), are also on the rise, as are Tahiti, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Rank	Team	Pts:	Rank:
49	Australia	558	89
80	New Zealand	510	96
117	Tahiti	398	135
130	Solomon Islands	362	154
133	Fiji	359	149
142	Vanuatu	313	163
160	Papua New Guinea	237	178
177	Samoa	180	181
182	Tonga	154	185
186	New Caledonia	119	0
190	Cook Islands	103	192
203	American Samoa	20	203

Elsewhere, Chile (65th, up 12) and Peru (72nd, up 9) also take strides up the table. 2006 World Cup qualifiers are underway in Africa, with Senegal (26th, up 5) and Côte d'Ivoire (69th, up 6) both taking advantage.

Despite only making their debut in this month's ranking, there is already daylight between FIFA's newest member, New Caledonia (186th, new entry), and the teams at the very foot of the table.

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EURO 2004 CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER

FRANCE	3.75	DENMARK	26
ITALY	5.75	SWEDEN	31
PORTUGAL	7.00	CROATIA	51
NETHERLANDS	7.00	RUSSIA	81
ENGLAND	7.50	BULGARIA	101
SPAIN	7.50	GREECE	101
GERMANY	13	SWITZERLAND	126
CZECH REPUBLIC	15	LATVIA	251

EURO 2004 GROUP A WINNER

PORTUGAL	2.10	GREECE	9.00
SPAIN	2.20	RUSSIA	9.00

EURO 2004 GROUP B WINNER

FRANCE	1.60	CROATIA	10
ENGLAND	2.85	SWITZERLAND	13

EURO 2004 GROUP C WINNER

ITALY	1.50	DENMARK	6.00
SWEDEN	4.50	BULGARIA	10

EURO 2004 GROUP D WINNER

NETHERLANDS	2.05	GERMANY	3.35
CZECH REPUBLIC	2.90	LATVIA	41

EURO 2004 QUINELLA

FRANCE-ITALY	8.50	ENGLAND-GERMANY	38
FRANCE-PORTUGAL	10	ENGLAND-CZECH REPUBLIC	45
FRANCE-ENGLAND	11	ENGLAND-DENMARK	76
FRANCE-NETHERLANDS	11	ENGLAND-CROATIA	151
ITALY-ENGLAND	17	ENGLAND-RUSSIA	226
NETHERLANDS-ENGLAND	21	ENGLAND-GREECE	251
PORTUGAL-ENGLAND	21	ENGLAND-BULGARIA	301
ENGLAND-SPAIN	23	Other combinations available	

EURO 2004 TOP GOAL SCORER (GOLDEN BOOT)

HENRY Thierry (FRA)	5.50	RAUL Gonzalez (SPA)	13
VAN NISTLEROOY Ruud (NET)	8.00	OWEN Michael (ENG)	13
VIERI Christian (ITA)	9.00	ROONEY Wayne (ENG)	31
PAULETA (POR)	10	BECKHAM David (ENG)	51
TREZEGUET David (FRA)	11	Other players available	

PHASE 1 - GROUP D MATCH BETTING - TONIGHT

GERMANY v NETHERLANDS

GERMANY	3.10	DRAW	3.20	NETHERLANDS	2.10

CZECH REPUBLIC v LATVIA

CZECH REPUBLIC	1.45	DRAW	3.75	LATVIA	7.50

PHASE 2 - GROUP A MATCH BETTING - 16 JUNE

GREECE v SPAIN

GREECE	4.00	DRAW	3.20	SPAIN	1.50

RUSSIA v PORTUGAL

RUSSIA	4.00	DRAW	3.20	PORTUGAL	1.50

PHASE 2 - GROUP B MATCH BETTING - 17 JUNE

ENGLAND v SWITZERLAND

ENGLAND	1.60	DRAW	3.20	SWITZERLAND	4.00

ENGLAND v SWITZERLAND - HALF TIME/FULL TIME DOUBLE (AT 90 MINS)

ENGLAND-ENGLAND	2.10	ENGLAND-DRAW	14
DRAW-ENGLAND	3.90	SWITZERLAND-DRAW	14
DRAW-DRAW	4.50	SWITZERLAND-ENGLAND	23
SWITZERLAND-SWITZERLAND	8.00	ENGLAND-SWITZERLAND	35
DRAW-SWITZERLAND	9.00		

ENGLAND v SWITZERLAND - EXACT SCORE (AT 90 MINS)

ENGLAND 1-0	5.50	SWITZERLAND 2-1	14
ENGLAND 2-0	5.50	DRAW 2-2	16
DRAW 1-1	6.00	SWITZERLAND 2-0	21
DRAW 0-0	7.00	ENGLAND 3-2	31
ENGLAND 2-1	8.00	ENGLAND 4-0	31
SWITZERLAND 1-0	6.50	ENGLAND 4-1	31
ENGLAND 3-0	11	ENGLAND 4-2	61
ENGLAND 3-1	12	Other options available	

CROATIA v FRANCE

CROATIA	5.60	DRAW	3.30	FRANCE	1.40

PHASE 2 - GROUP C MATCH BETTING - 18 JUNE

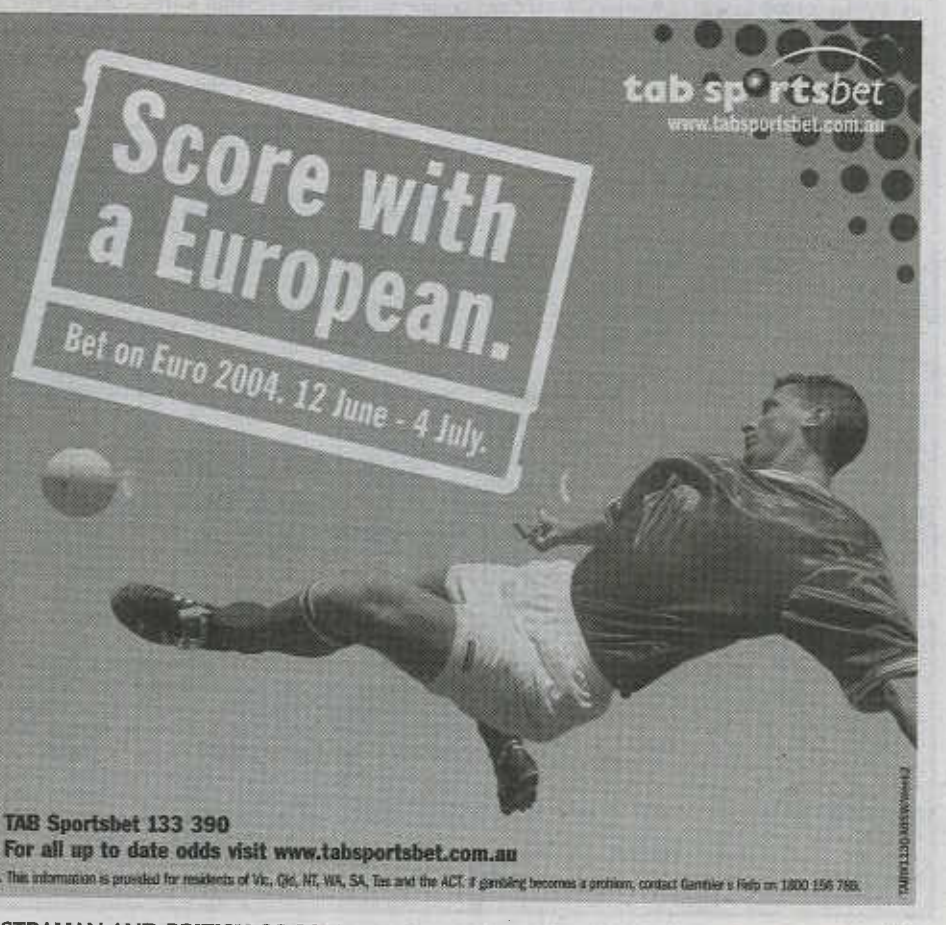
BULGARIA v DENMARK

BULGARIA	2.95	DRAW	3.10	DENMARK	2.05

ITALY v SWEDEN

ITALY	1.75	DRAW	2.90	SWEDEN	3.80

Returns as at 9am Friday, 11th June, 2004. All returns shown are for $1. Minimum bet $5. Betting is all in. Betting closes at the commencement of an event. No refunds. This information is provided for residents of Vic., Qld, NT, WA, SA, Tas and the ACT. If gambling becomes a problem, contact Gambler's Help on 1800 156 789.



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SOCCERWOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

QANTAS MATILDAS OPTIMISTIC AFTER OLYMPIC DRAW

Australia remains optimistic of a strong performance at the 2004 Olympic Games women's football tournament, after they were drawn in Group G alongside Greece, USA, and Brazil at Wednesday night's Olympic draw in Athens.

Women's National Coach Adrian Santrac knows it won't be an easy campaign, but is quietly confident the team can perform strongly against these sides.

"It's not a horrific draw – it would be if it was a group of three with USA and Brazil, but it's not bad when you look at it," said Santrac.

"Greece being part of our group makes it quite interesting, and having the number two and sixth ranked teams deserves a lot of respect. But we won't be conceding any results to them."

"Greece have had some reasonable results over recent times – not against the top-ranked European teams, but quite good sides. That tells us they are still very much a developing nation. It will be interesting to see how they handle the pressure of a home Olympics. Their strength is their home ground advantage, and while we're mindful of Greece's ranking, what we don't know is that we haven't played against them nor seen them play."

"In order for us to get through (to the quarterfinals), we need to ensure a win, whether we target all three rather than just Greece - we don't want to set ourselves a goal that's limiting."

Australia's opening match against South American champions Brazil will be the key to the campaign, according to Santrac who is pleased with the order of the matches.

"We face Brazil in the opening game who are young but an outstanding team. But they've got to stand up to the pressure of the first game too. The opening twenty minutes will be particularly interesting. If our squad's able to assert themselves early, upset them a little bit, then you never know what might happen. That would then set up a great encounter against Greece. I'm far happier with the schedule than if US was our first game. I'm looking at this quite optimistically."

The Qantas Matildas, ranked 16 in the FIFA women's world rankings, have yet to record a win and to advance past the group stage at a senior women's FIFA event (Women's World Cup and Olympics). The double feat, elusive so far in three Women's World Cups and one Olympics, will be in the team's sights come August.

Greece, ranked 57, are the only team in the 10-nation line-up never to have competed in a Women's World Cup or previous Olympics. As host nation however, they certainly won't be easybeats with parochial home support behind them. Since named as host, Greece has undertaken a worldwide search for players of Greek heritage, as a result, boosting their ranks with several Greek-American players. Together with an increased schedule of matches over recent years, they have improved.

USA are currently ranked number 2 in the world, but are considered the top of the pack overall since the advent of Women's World Cup and Olympic football. The reigning Olympic silver medallists were also the inaugural gold medallists of Atlanta 1996, as well as Women's World Cup champions in both 1991 and 1999. The Qantas Matildas have lost to the Americans in all 15 internationals played to date, their last meeting a 4-0 result in the 2002 US Women's Cup.

Brazil, ranked 6, have already faced Australia in Olympic women's competition. The Qantas Matildas have defeated Brazil twice in their five matches to date, although the last win was back in 1995. Sydney 2000 was the last occasion the two nations faced each other, setting up an interesting encounter this time around.

Australia opens their Olympic campaign against Brazil in Thessaloniki on Wednesday 11 August, the football competitions traditionally commencing two days before the official Olympic opening ceremony. Australia then travels to Heraklio on the island of Crete to face home side Greece on Saturday 14 August, before rounding out the group matches against USA back in Thessaloniki on Tuesday 17 August.

The ten finalist nations for Athens 2004 were drawn into three groups as follows –

Group E – Sweden, Japan, Nigeria.
Group F – Germany, China, Mexico.
Group G – Greece, USA, Brazil, AUSTRALIA.

QANTAS YOUNG MATILDAS HAPPY WITH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

The Qantas Young Matildas are looking forward to the challenge at this year's FIFA U19 Women's World Championship, after being drawn in Group A alongside Thailand, Europe's second-ranked nation, and Canada at Friday's Draw Ceremony in Thailand, host of the twelve-nation Championship in November.

Women's National Coach Adrian Santrac, in Bangkok for the Draw, was excited with the team's grouping in what he feels will be a tough competition all round

"It's a fantastic group – we're delighted," said Santrac. "Canada, the number one CONCACAF team, will be formidable, Europe's number two side will also be very, very tough, and Thailand will be playing at home. All three groups are very, very tough. With the twelve teams broken up this way, they're all very hard."

The Qantas Young Matildas kick off their campaign against Canada on 10 November, before facing Europe's number two nation on 13 November, and hosts Thailand on 16 November.

Europe's four competing nations will be decided with the staging of the finals tournament of the UEFA European Women's U19 Championship in July/August in Finland. The eight competing nations are Germany, Spain, France, Norway, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, and Finland. Three of Europe's four teams at Canada 2002 reached the quarterfinals, with Germany playing in the semifinals.

At Thailand 2004, the top two teams from each of the three groups advance to the quarterfinals, along with the two best third-placed sides.

The other seeded teams were "Europe 1", Brazil, and Canada.

The Qantas Young Matildas qualified for Thailand 2004 in April this year, winning the Oceania U19 Women's Qualifying Tournament in Papua New Guinea.

The twelve finalist nations for Thailand 2004 were drawn into three groups as follows. Europe and Africa will complete their qualification process later in the year.

Group A – Thailand, Europe 2, AUSTRALIA, Canada.
Group B – Africa, China, Europe 4, Brazil.
Group C – South Korea, USA, Europe 3, Europe 1.

The FIFA U19 Women's World Championship Thailand 2004 will be contested 10-27 November in three host cities – Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Phuket.

GOLDEN ERA SET TO HIT SOCCER NSW

(Cont. Front Page)

Exclusive by Mark Stavroulakis

-Now people might say that the Challenger's Group will be nothing more than a competition that will drag on until the year's end meaning club's won't care as to what position they finish up - wrong thinking.

Like the Championship group, seven rounds will be played to determine two objectives.

The winner of this group will be placed in the semi-final series with the four already promoted from the championship group and will be known as a 'wildcard' entry - not a bad incentive.

While the three bottom clubs in this group will kiss their season's good bye as relegation will take its toll and these teams will filter in the Winter Super League of 2006.

**A small note that an Easter recess will take place during this period.*

Premier League Finals Series
(28th May – 19th June)

Like this year's scenario, five clubs will take part in the finals series with a special wildcard entry from the challengers group in announcing who will be the Grand-Final winner of the NSW Premier League.

The team that finished first in the Championship group will have a week's rest while the rest play on until the final has been reached.

During next seasons league, the Continental Cup that was won by the Sydney Crescent Star this year will also feature in a much bigger way.

This year, around 80 sides entered the competition from across NSW in a bid to rekindle the fairytale match between a non-league side and a premiership side.

Next year, over 100 club sides from across NSW with the Illawarra region targeted too will put their stakes in trying to win NSW's FA Cup style tournament.

The 21st of May has been pencilled in as the possible time upon which the finals of the Continental Cup will take place with hopes that next year's English FA Cup will fall on the same weekend.

Having explained the detailed procedures of next year's NSW Premier League one must believe that the federation has laid the cards on the table and has gone through with their plans to make this game number one in Australia.

What SOCCER NSW hopes to do is have the four former NSL clubs looked upon by the rest of the league as the pinnacle to reach to as a club.

You will certainly see a difference in clubs when a former NSL club takes on a lesser known Premier League side however that will only better the state of this competition.

Ultimately, SOCCER NSW hopes to move the competition back to 12 teams in three years in providing the most elite league there is, in regards to the state competitions set to take place next season.

Away from the competition itself, another remarkable idea that has been pitched by SOCCER NSW, alongside the South Australian soccer federation, the VSF and the Queensland federation is that of a 'Pan Australian Playoff Series'.

The four states will pit their number one sides against each-other and the winner will be rewarded as being Australia's best team from across the states.

What will make this idea even more exciting is that this series will take place one weekend in a regional town from any one of the states mentioned above.

It could be Coffs Harbour, Albury, Tamworth, whatever the region, rest assured the message is simple – 'spreading the gospel according to soccer', will be each federation's main aim.

Overall, this new look league has and will catch the attention of many spectators as a huge year is install for season 2004-05 in the NSW Premier League.

It's already got many people talking, and after last week's monumental grand-final between Belconnen Blue Devils and the Bankstown Lions, signs are evident that the game is set to hit new heights with one thing in mind – guiding soccer towards the number one sport in Australia.

This could happen very soon:

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE
Pan Australian Club Championship
Proposed October 2005

Champions of:
NSW
VICTORIA
QUEENSLAND
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

One weekend competition in regional city, ie, Coffs Harbor
Two semis Friday night
3rd place play-off & Final Sunday afternoon

BILL TURNER CUP — QUEENSLAND RESULTS

Qualifying Round: Mareeba 4 Atherton 0, Dimoula 3 Malanda 1, Trinity Bay 3 Trinity Anglican 0, Ignatius Park 4 Townsville Grammar 2, Kirwan 4 Ingham 0, Emmaus Rockhampton 3 Rockhampton Grammar 2, Ryan Catholic 2 William Ross 1, Dalby 1 St Marys Dalby 0, Centenary Heights 5 Downlands 3.

Round 1: Mareeba 3 Dimboula 1, St Augustines Cairns 7 St Marys Cairns 2, Cairns 2 Trinity Bay 1, Tully 3 Smithfield 1, Gilroy College 3 Pimlico 1, Kirwan 4 Ignatius Park 0, Ayr 2 Home Hill 1, Biloela 2 Blackwater 0, North Rockhampton 6 Emmaus College 1, Maroochydore 2 Coolum 0, Clontarf Beach 4 Narangba Valley 1, Pine Rivers 3 St Columbans 2, Moreyfield 3 Ashley 2, Brisbane Grammar 7 Mueller 0, Albany Creek 3 Wavell Heights 0, Roma Middle 4 Charleville 1, Brisbane State 4 Brisbane Boys 1, St Laurence 3 Ferny Grove 1, Anglican Grammar 4 St Josephs Gregory Terrace 1, Park Ridge 4 St Francis 3, Browns Plains 6 Marsden 3, Windaroo Valley 6 Beaudesert 3, Emmanuel 8 Hillcrest 0.

BILL TURNER CUP

Round 2: Doonside 1 Blacktown Boys 0, Oxley 1 Farrar 0, Trinity Lismore 3 St Johns Woodlawn 1, Bellingen 2 Toormina 1, John Paul Coffs Harbour 4 Macksville 0, St Clare Taree 3 Wingham 1, St Pauls Port Macquarie 4 Westport 0, St Josephs Port Macquarie 4 Port Macquarie 2, West Wallsend 4 St Marys Gateshead 2, Carroll College 7 Eden 0, St Johns Nowra 3 Bomaderry 2.

Round 3: All Saints Lakemba 2 Belmore Boys 1, Greystanes 4 The Hills Sports 0, Condell Park 3 DLS Ashfield 2, Granville Boys 3 Sutherland Shire Christian 1, St Dominics Penrith 3-7 Emmaus College 3-6, St Leo's College 2-5 Davidson 2-4, Pennant Hills 1 Galston 0, Endeavour Sports 2 Aquinas College 0, Sydney Tech 3 Menai 2, Leumeah 3 Freeman Catholic 1, Bossley Park 5 East Hills Boys 0, James Sheahan 1 Orange 0, St Johns Dubbo 2 Canobolas 1, South Dubbo 6 Parkes 2, Oxley 3 Moree 0, Kingscliffe 2 St Josephs Banora 1, Alstonville 4 St Marys Casino 2, Bellingen 3 John Paul College 2, Catherine McAuley 2 South Grafton 1, St Clare Taree 1 Taree 0, St Pauls Port Macquarie 2 St Josephs Port Macquarie 1, Hunter Sports 4 Avondale College 0, Lambton 4 CC Waratah 2, Merewether 3 CC Wallsend 0, St Edwards Gosford 4 Narara Valley 0, TLC Tumbi Umbi 1 Henry Kendall 0.

BILL TURNER GIRLS TROPHY

Round 2: Kingswood 1 Penrith 0, Colyton 4 Hawkesbury 0, Cecil Hills 7 Liverpool Girls 1, Mullumbimby 5 Byron Bay 0, West Wallsend 2 Lake Mummorah 0, CC Waratah 2 CC Wallsend 1, St Francis Leeton 7 Temora 0, Xavier Albury 1 Albury 0, Galen College 4 Wodonga Catholic 0, Wagga Wagga 2 Cootamundra 1.

Round 3: McCarthy Catholic 3 Springwood 1, Mitchell 3 Riverstone 1, The Forest 3 Manly Campus 0, Mackellar Girls 5 St Leo's College 0, Riverside Girls 2 Asquith Girls 0, Pennant Hills 3 William Clarke College 1, Endeavour Sports 3 Port Hacking 0, Jannali 4 St Spyridon College 0, Heathcote 1 Aquinas College 0, Elderslie 4 Thomas Reddall 4, Trinity Lismore 2 Alstonville 1, Lismore 2-6 Kyogle 2-5, Murwillumbah 2 Wollumbin 1, GLC Forster 4 Wauchope 2, Kurri Kurri 5 Maitland Grossman 0, Hunter Sports 6 Warners Bay 0, Wadalba Community 1 Northlakes 0.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2003-04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1.BulleenZebrasSC	**16**	**9**	**5**	**2**	**22**	**12**	**32**
2.GreenGullyCavaliersSC	16	9	3	4	26	19	30
3.PrestonLionsSC	16	9	2	5	21	12	29
4.OakleighCannonsSC	16	9	2	5	23	15	29
5.AltonaMagic	16	9	2	5	26	25	29
6.FrankstonPinesSC	16	9	1	6	20	14	28
7.StAlbansSaintsSC	15	8	2	5	22	14	26
8.EssendonRoyalsSC	16	7	4	5	23	18	25
9.FawknerBluesSC	16	3	2	11	16	25	11
10.BentleighGreensSC	16	3	2	11	9	28	11
11.WhittleseaStallionsSC	15	2	4	9	23	28	10
12.KnoxCitySC	16	3	1	12	13	34	10

Round 17 Fixtures

Saturday 19 June
Knox City ..... vs. Oakleigh Cannons
Altona Magic ..... vs. Whittlesea Stallions

Sunday 20 June
St Albans Saints .... vs. Fawkner Blues
Preston Lions ..... vs. Essendon Royals
Green Gully ..... vs. Bentleigh Greens

Monday 21 June
Bulleen Zebras ..... vs. Frankston Pines

from the

dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis

Criteria for national league clubs made confidential

National League reform might be proceeding at a glacial pace within Australian Soccer Association headquarters, but a little forward motion still seems to be apparent.

Strikers' Chief Executive Officer Steve Wilson confirmed that the club had received an acknowledgement from the ASA in response to its lodgement of a "Registration of Interest" to enter the new league, and that the governing body had also asked the club to sign a "Deed of Confidentiality" agreeing not to divulge details of the ASA's criteria for entry to the new national league - when they are provided.

It would appear that this cautious approach has replaced the "face to face" interviews with prospective applicants that the ASA had mooted a few weeks ago.

Media reports quoted the ASA's Chief Executive Officer, John O'Neill, saying that the ASA had received registrations of interest from 19 applicants, and that the bids provided a "good spread nationally". O'Neill also said the ASA had held talks with all of Australia's free-to-air television networks, and Fox Sports, offering a "bundled rights" package of national team games and the new national league.

At the moment ABSW are led to believe that the following bids have been put into place – remembering though that this is just a rough idea.

-Perth Glory
-Adelaide United (State Backed)
-Adelaide City
-Melbourne Victory (State Backed)
-Melbourne United
-South Melbourne
-South Coast Wolves (Wollongong)
-Marconi
-Soccer NSW (State Backed)
-Spirit FC (Gosford)
-Newcastle United
-Brisbane Strikers
-Queensland Lions
-New Zealand bid
-Canberra
-North Queensland bid
-Private New Zealand bid
-Private Perth bid
-Tasmania

Olympic vote new committee

Members of the Sydney Olympic board convened last week, Tuesday 8th June 2004, at the Sydney Olympic office to finalise the board and carry out the election of officers.

As it stands the new board of Sydney Olympic is:
President: Graham Athanaseris
Vice President: John Theodoridis
Secretary: Nick Kambounias
Treasurer: Archie Papadopoulos
Director: Harry Michaels
Director: George Giannaros
Director: Anthony Doueihi
Director: Chris Eliadis
Director: Peter Varvaressos
Director: Con Koulouris

O'Neill wants annual England fixture

Australian SA chief John O'Neill hopes to set up an annual international against England to lift the game's profile in the country.

"A regular contest with England would be fantastic," O'Neill told the Sydney Morning Herald. "We would try to get rid of the word 'friendly' and turn them into international Test matches and play for something.

"We need those sort of contests that aren't just a one-off. We certainly have the idea very much elevated on our agenda.

"We'd like to get the balance right between the traditional sporting enemy, i.e. England, and a neighbourly contest with east Asian opponents. We need a match schedule that sees the Socceroos playing in Australia on a regular basis.

"If we were able to play four or five games a year at home and a couple away in London, that would be great."

This comes after the absurd news that O'Neill wanted to take over a club in England.

Many pundits believe that this move in getting more fixtures for the country could well be in line for keeping this dream alive.

More matches though against quality opposition such as England will bolster the Socceroos chances of playing better as the qualifiers draw closer.

Next September, the Roos have a date with Pacific Island minnows Solomon Islands who produced a memorable two-all draw with the Roos in their final OFC match two weeks ago.

Perth Glory prepares for new era

Perth Glory Chief Executive Jeff Dennis announced that the club had taken measures to ensure it is in a good position to capitalise on the new structure of the NSL when it is established.

"The processing of applications to the new national competition is now underway and Perth Glory has lodged an expression of interest. This process will take time and we need to ensure we have the best possible structure to capitalise on the game's new era.

"Regretfully, a period of adjustment is required and this will see the positions of all operational staff and several administration staff come to an end on 30 June 2004.

"We have taken the necessary steps to see the club through this period of uncertainty when there will not be any games until the new league commences.

"These situations are never easy as they involve individuals who have contributed great service to Perth Glory. Sadly though, given the state that Australian football was in, a long-term process was required to get things right and we have had to adjust to that.

"Unfortunately it is impossible to retain everyone while the process of change that the game so badly needs is underway. The club would like to extend its sincere thanks to those who have served it so well, producing one of the most successful eras the old National Soccer League has ever experienced.

"We remain focused on continuing to build on the strong foundation that the club has already achieved with the name, colours, logo, and success of three Premierships and two Championships. Following ASA's direction, we will re-energise and relaunch the club in the next few months, announcing many exciting changes for the future.

"I can assure Perth Glory's supporters that we are already developing a new structure and strategies to ensure that success continues into the new competition as football in Australia finally achieves its potential."

Last week, Glory chairman Nick Tana went through some wholesale changes in the Glory staff department stating that due to the circumstances of having no football competition, keeping the offices open was not the correct option.

The Glory would have been rather skeptical about January's APL tournament which will bring together the 8 teams that will participate in the competition next year.

Perth are firm favourites to land an APL spot and will be out in force in winning the pre-tournament competition.

The winner of the tournament will represent Oceania in next year's World Club Championships.

Olyroos Polled in tough Olympic group

It was not going to be an easy task after all but last week the draw for the 2004 Athens Olympic Football groups were selected with the Olyroos taking a back seat in a tough group.

Australia will face South American giants Argentina, European U21 championship runners-up Serbia & Montenegro and African side Tunisia, whom we met just over a month ago and were narrowly beaten 1-0.

Australia will play Tunisia in its first match on August 11 in Heraklio on the island of Crete, followed by Serbia & Montenegro three days later also in Heraklio. The match against Group favourites Argentina will be played in Athens.

Frank Farina will be assembling his final squad in the next few weeks bound for Athens as preparations will be in order for tackling their tough obstacle awaiting them in Greece.

Australia hopes it will achieve better results then that of their last Olympics campaign in Sydney where it ended disastrous in the host city.

Three over-age players have been targeted by Farina in pulling the green and gold jersey in Greece with money placed on Marco Bresciano, Craig Moore and possibly Mark Schwarzer gaining the final call-ups.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the quarter-finals.

The top three teams from this group will go through to the quarter finals with the fourth team eliminated automatically.

Men's Group

GROUP A	GROUP B
Greece	Paraguay
South Korea	Japan
Mali	Ghana
Mexico	Italy

GROUP C	GROUP D
Argentina	Costa Rica
Serbia & Montenegro	Morocco
Tunisia	Iraq
Australia	Portugal

Attention U18 Clubbers wanted

Its not everyday you hear or see that a dance party event is staged in honour of this year's Euro 2004 championships in Portugal.

Sydney has been hit with huge news that the ever popular u18's night club Balla-Re has opened its doors to a huge event scheduled for this Friday night (18th June) as part of the Euro 2004 celebrations.

Thousands of young clubbers have turned out at every Balla-Re event with many believing it has become the best U18's night in Sydney.

Led by Sydney's finest Djs in Lil Pete – Benino G – Blinky – Dimi K – Dee Mc Jo Jo and special guest Alex K – the Greek/Italian night is set to go 'off' literally.

Below is the flyer and details on this event that is a must for any youngster, especially keen soccer player.

So older brothers, sisters and parents take note, Balla-Re this Friday night for your Euro 2004 soccer fix on the dance floor.

TICKETS
$15 + $2 booking fee presold ($20 @ the door)
SUPRE (Hurstville, Roselands, Parramatta, Eastgardens, Bankstown)
Pulse Clothing Burwood

Congratulations Nick Carle

ABSW would like to congratulate Socceroo star Nick Carle for tying the knot last Saturday with long-time girlfriend Melissa out in Sydney's West.

Carle, a former Marconi Stallions attacker has gained the attention of a few overseas clubs which could land the star very soon.

We wish them all the best – well done Nicky…

Greenacre Legend Passes Away

It was with sad news to write that long-time Greenacre serving and founding member of the soccer club Jim Mullen passed away after a long term battle with sickness.

Mullen was known as 'Mr Soccer' in the Western Suburbs of Greenacre in Sydney where everything that had to do with the round ball game, Jimmy knew.

Soccer was Jim's life, after being involved for well over 45 years with the club, there was not a day that went by that Jimmy was not at a match, whether it was home or away.

Mullen is survived by his wife Norene and three sons Peter, Paul and Kevin.

Kevin was a former Socceroo and also played football for Hakoah back in the early days of the NSL.

At 76, Mullen asked one final thing before he passed and that was to have his ashes buried at Greenacre's home ground – Allum Park.

Jim was a true mate who did everything and anything to help other people out and never once thought about himself.

The world has lost a true man in Jim Mullen but his spirit will be remembered by many in the years to come.

Those who knew 'Jimmy' found the larikan in him was always there even in his darkest hours.

May he rest in heavenly peace.

Johnny Warren Charity Golf Day, Proceeds to Sydney Cancer Foundation

To ABSW,

I am very pleased to report that the "Johnny Warren Charity Golf Day" was a tremendous success. We had maximum attendance, resulting in a great reunion of the Football fraternity.

We raised **$7,025.00** for the Foundaiton which will help in cancer research.

Your support for the event was greatly appreciated.

Johnny has taken to raising funds for the Foundation as a personal mission and we once again thank you most sincerely.

Yours faithfully,

Ross Warren
Jamberoo Hotel &
Saleyard Motel

Ross Warren

Johnny Warren

Remembering Jess

Van Stratten aims for bigger things in Italian Football

By Mark Stavroulakis

To this day, 22-year-old giant custodian Jess Van Stratten still stands as the only Australian player ever to sign for Serie A giants Juventus – and yet not one word has been spoken about him.

Born and bred in the sunny suburb of Terrigal situated in the Central Coast, Van Stratten first shot to fame with his exquisite performances under the posts for the U17 Joeys in their finals finish against Brazil back in '99.

It was there the world realized what Jess was capable of doing thus grabbing the attention of the likes of Juventus.

"I'd have to say that the tournament in New Zealand paved the way for me in signing for Juventus that year. I had a great tournament and was part of a brilliant side that could have gone all the way but I was happy to have made such an impact. I was really star struck when Juventus alerted to me that they were after my signature. It was a few months after the tournament in New Zealand where I put pen to paper on a five-year deal that was a dream come true".

It seemed as though after his transfer to Juventus from the Northern Spirit, the Australian media tuned off one of our most exciting prospects yet and was just a true sign that the Italian game was not getting the recognition it deserved 'down-under'.

Comparing it to the English Premier League, it's a true fact that the Australian media has taken that game much easier than that of the Italian game which the Central Coast star stated was a 'hard pill to swallow'.

"It's a shame that the Italian game has not been taken on the right foot by many Australians here as it is a wonderful game to watch and play. I understand that the Premier League has its star players and the flow of the game is obviously quicker but let me tell you that the Italian way of football suits as probably the best and toughest league in the world. It took me a while in getting used to the fact that the Italians played very tactical and smart something of which has made it the best league in the world. One thing's for sure, if I was approached by an English club at this stage I'd say 'no way', as I'm loving it here".

Since his move to Juventus in '99, Van Stratten's playing career has been one of a rollercoaster ride.

As soon as the giant keeper arrived in Turin, Serie B side Hellas Verona, who were tracking the performances by the Aussie, were also keen in signing Van Stratten up.

"As soon as I arrived in Turin I had barely unpacked my bags and the phone rang. It was my manager. News filtered through that I was signed by Juventus and Verona were willing to strike up some kind of deal with them. What was laid out was rather complicated to me at first but seemed logical, Verona had bought 50% of my contract from Juventus so I moved there. I knew that I would have got more of a run at Verona with Juve having such an extensive playing roster".

During his time in the beautiful city of Verona, which is renowned as the birthplace of Romeo and Juliet, Jess faced many obstacles in the way of what it meant in becoming a professional footballer.

"The first few seasons I was loaned out to a Serie C side called Carrarese for more match experience as that is what they do in Italy. Most clubs blood youngsters through smaller clubs in the Serie C1 or C2 as part of a program in developing them. During that time I went through a massive transitional change in regards to learning the language, meeting new people and becoming accustomed to the Italian way of life which now is unbelievable."

Known as a true blue Australian, his parents and friends back home were rather impressed at the new lingo Van Stratten brought back to the Central Coast.

"At the start I thought I was never going to learn the language. I knew though that if I was going to get anything out of the game here I was going to have to learn it. At trainings it's so much easier now that I can communicate with everyone and I know what people are saying to me or about me, trust me it comes in handy. I would like to learn another language, Greek possibly, who knows? The more the better".

After his outstanding performances in the Serie C1 with Carrarese, Van Stratten was called back to Verona at the start of this season and claimed the number one spot for the Serie B squad – however, injury struck the star that sidelined him for the whole season.

"It was the worst feeling ever. I felt as though I was really peaking, pre season this year was great and I was buzzing after gaining a start in the side's first game of the year. After 45 minutes though I snapped by cruciate ligament in my knee that spelled the end of the year. It was the toughest thing I've gone through but I have become a lot stronger, mentally and physically in wanting to get back to the top. Now that I have signed a new four-year deal with Verona, it gives me a stepping stone towards getting my career back on track starting next season".

One goal that the Australian hoped to achieve was being apart of the Olympic squad this year for Athens.

"One of my main aims was to get the attention of Frank and make the squad. The injury set me back big time but I know I can get back up that ladder internationally. I have been involved in the U17 and U20 World Cup championships so I am willing to take that next step. I just hope no one forgets me over there that's all".

Tucking into some good old Australian sandwiches: Jess Van Stratten is hoping to leave a mark in the Italian league with side Hellas Verona.

Young players take note, this up and coming keeper isn't just a true footballer but a true family man.

Only recently, Van Stratten flew across the world from Verona to the Central Coast just in time to surprise his mum for her 50th birthday celebrations and apparently, Mrs Van Stratten was in state of shock seeing her beloved son come all the way just for that.

"It was great seeing the folks again. Nothing will ever beat Australia that is why I love and can't wait to come back to this country. I miss many things about it, my family and friends and also the surfing too.

"I guess if this new APL league get's into order then maybe all the youngsters will return to the game as will our old stars. I know a few that would love nothing more than to get paid in a professional amount and staying in their own country, I mean who wouldn't enjoy that?" ended Van Stratten.

Solomon Islands victory for Oceania football

The Solomon Islands will be the Socceroos next obstacle on route towards qualification in Germany for the World Cup in 2006.

By Mark Stavroulakis

It surely is a fairytale come true for one of Oceania's tiny pacific countries in the Solomon Islands.

Two weeks ago, the Pacific Islanders achieved something many spectators in Adelaide though would be unachievable, making the next stage of World Cup qualification.

To everyone's amazement a two-all result all but ended the constant reign the Kiwis had in playing the Socceroos for that final spot in the World Cup.

Was this a shock for football here? I think not.

It was merely a change of the tides in what will see a rise in all Pacific Island countries that will seriously better the sport in many facets.

Situated in a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Papua New Guinea, the 500, 000 plus population the Solomon Islands were in raptures after their sides monumental draw in Adelaide for the OFC Nations Cup.

Thousands of proud Solomon Islanders turned up in the capital of Honiara for the welcoming of their beloved heroes, a scene that will surely make the umbrella of world football proud.

The man that has surely put the country on the map and must be given a medal for his efforts has been Englishman Alan Gillett.

The 56-year-old has a lengthy international track record including spells in Japan, Yemen and the USA. Prior to taking on the Solomon Islands challenge, Gillett worked in Africa with the Malawi national set-up.

Its been his tutelage that the minnow island has benefited from in a great way.

The qualification against the Socceroos next September has only furthered the nations claim that the round ball game is number one in the Solomons.

Its unfortunate that Oceania has lost its bearings in regards to football being the number one sport in this region.

Australia, New Zealand and Fiji are renowned for having soccer as a number two three or four sport in their respective countries.

Its fitting to see Tahiti, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands fly the flag for football as their number one sport.

Honiara was though a place marvelled by the atmosphere of their local heroes.

Along the street, young and old were packed to the brim in welcoming their stars from the airport.

Never before has this happened to any team in the country.

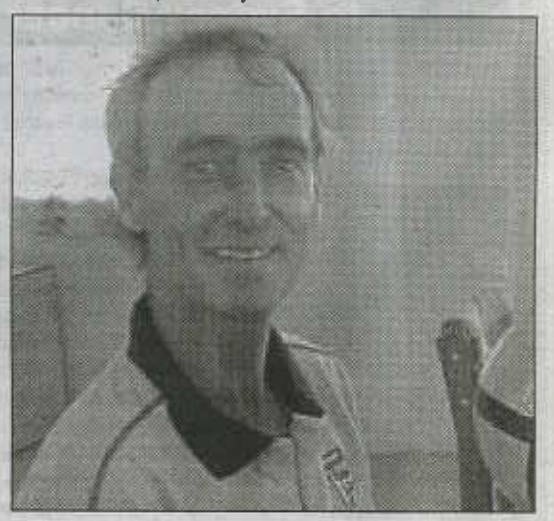
Even the Parliament session has had to be suspended just to allow the Prime Minister Sir Alan Kemakesa and members of Parliament to welcome the team home.

It was all jubilation everywhere and the motorcade which took the boys on the victory parade from Henderson to White River took almost three hours to complete the route.

Head coach Gillett was lost for words and his boys were also surprised at the reception they get from their fans and supporters.

Should the Australians worry about such an achievement?

Let's just state the old football adage – 'Anything is possible in the game of football'.



Solomon Islands man of the moment and coach Alan Gillett.

By Daniela Raco

What is Success?

What is "SUCCESS"? Success cannot be measured.
"Some succeed because they are destined to; most succeed because they are determined to".
As a special feature *ABSW* asks the public faces of Australia's business/media/and sport:

Mark Stavroulakis – ABSW Editor

1. What are the makings of success?
Believing in yourself first and foremost is essential for the makings of success. It's a must that you know within yourself that you have the confidence to do anything at any given time. Once this is realized, success will follow.

2. How do you maintain success?
Many people seem to pull the breaks up when success is achieved, I guess that is the biggest 'no no' in life. Once you have hit that home run, the same momentum you used in getting there should still be instilled. So hard work and obviously dedication are all musts in keeping your success afloat.

Vincent – Big Brother 3 Housemate

1. What are the makings of success?
The makings of success is fundamentally having the vision to set goals and having the passion to keep going until you achieve them. And no matter what, never let anybody tell you that you cannot do whatever it is that you've set out to achieve, ever!

2. How do you maintain success?
The key is not to get too comfortable. Once you achieve a goal, you should be looking for your next one. It's all about having the drive to stay on top.

Danny Tiatto – English Premier League, and current Socceroo

1. What are the makings of success?
Talent, hard work, determination, and dedication.

2. How do you maintain success?
By working hard and not letting your form slip. By being professional in your job and sport.

Brodie – Big Brother 2 Housemate

1. What are the makings of success?
There are so many levels of success; to me it's about setting personal goals and achieving them. It may be to get up in the morning without pressing snooze, or getting a new number by the end of the night, or aiming to raise a certain amount of money for charity!
Essentially, success is about commitment – focusing on a certain outcome and working towards that milestone despite the hurdles you may face. I believe strongly in the notion that good things come to those who wait, as long as you put yourself in the game.
In terms of my entertainment career, success is making it to the final 3 in the audition, but not ultimately gaining the place; or making it half way in Big Brother… even being recognised by a stranger but they don't know why: there's an element of success in that!

2. How do you maintain success?
Always approach life with a positive disposition, challenge the norm and believe in yourself: these are attributes that aid in the maintenance of success, on any level. By thinking outside of the square from time to time, and choosing the different, and usually harder, path, a successful outcome becomes far more rewarding.
I seek criticism, rather than praise: other peoples opinions can sometimes seem way left field, or off the mark, but they do provide an outsiders view of your interpretation and hence degree of success.
I constantly don't accept "no" nowadays… when I think something is wrong, or I disagree, I acknowledge the difference, earning respect and reason: an element of a successful outcome.
At the end of the day, if I had fun doing it, it was a successful day. My aim for the future so to continue making a difference. If I'm missed, I was a success.

Con Boutsianis – South Melbourne Soccer Club

1. What are the makings of success?
To learn all the skills that is required to participate in the game just like any other job.

2. How do you maintain success?
Constant and continual improvement and to fine-tune skills.

Chad Gibson – Marconi Soccer Club

1. What are the makings of success?
Dedication, application, and self-belief.

2. How do you maintain success?
Everything you did to be successful, double it, and work twice as hard. Never let yourself slip. Keep setting yourself new challenges and new goals to achieve.

Aytek Genc – Former NSL player, current Assistant St George coach

1. What are the makings of success?
Achieving your personal goals without harming anyone and keeping your honesty and integrity.

2. How do you maintain success?
Always be honest, helpful, insightful, and flexible and have a vision and dreams. Be enthusiastic and positive. Learn to accept different types of people. My favourite saying is "some people just don't get it". That is so true. They don't see the big picture. The ones that 'get it' are the ones that succeed.

Francis Awaritefe – Former NSL player and SBS soccer analyst

1. What are the makings of success?
A desire to do the best possible job and taking pride in your work. This often means that you have to love what you do and are passionate about it.

2. How do you maintain success?
In order to maintain success of any kind, you have to be driven, always looking for ways to improve yourself and your skills in your craft.

Mark McVeigh – Essendon Football Club (AFL)

1. What are the makings of success?
A person who does well in life and in their chosen career 80% of it is the way they approach and prepare for challenges. A champion does everything right and with utmost dedication. They lift with expectation and thrive with pressure. I believe a successful person is driven from within themselves and never wants to give in. When people succeed it has nothing to do with luck, it has all to do with hard work and focus within their chosen career.

2. How do you maintain success?
The next challenge for a successful person is maintaining a level of consistency which can be the hardest of them all. Public perception is that if you can stay at a high level consistently you're known as a champion who can perform even on a bad day and even if the odds are against you.

Paul Khoury – Television Presenter/Actor

1. What are the makings of success?
People's idea of success changes every day and I guess firstly you have to decide whether you are in fact successful in order to ask that question. Lots of people have many pieces of the 'life puzzle' worked out however, if they don't have that one thing that drives us worked out, would they be successful? If you find that one thing that drives you, then I think you are well on the way.

2. How do you maintain success?
You would probably need to keep assessing your life every year to see whether your goals had changed and whether you had reached them. Then if they have altered you would need to set new goals and reassess them. Realising your goals and reassessing them is the key to maintaining your journey.

Jeff Kennett – Former Premier of Victoria

1. What are the makings of success?
A. Identifying your goal
B. Developing the strategy to achieve it
C. Surrounding yourself with good people particularly those who have the skills you don't possess
D. Be consistent
E. Deliver the results you promised i.e. your goals

2. How do you maintain success?
Work hard on the above.

George Negus – Television Journalist/Author/Former Soccer Australia Director

1. What are the makings of success?
Knowing what you think it is. If you don't have a working definition of success in your own terms then you're not going to make it. In some cases it might be materialistic success, or it might be relationship success, or professional success, or changing the future of the human race. If you don't know what you're striving for you're not very likely to get it. Some people's idea of success might be living in a cave and eating off the land. For others it might be sailing around the globe in a five star luxury yacht.

2. How do you maintain success?
You can only maintain success if you know what it is. Commitment to a set of values is what it's all about. If you think the working definition of success is making a lot of money then you've got to work out ways to keep making a lot of money. If you think success is being personally content and satisfied in relationships, then money doesn't matter. These are almost dove-tailed questions. The answer to one will lead you to the answer of the other. Being consistent to what you are as a person will help you maintain your idea of success.

"Australia is not street wise" - Rasic

By Joe Russo

Australia's 1974 World Cup coach, Rale Rasic, has stated that the Socceroos are not street wise and that the South American leg of the World Cup qualifiers will once again be a very difficult task for the national team.

Speaking on Sunday Night Soccer on radio 98.5 FM (every Sunday in NSW at 10.00pm) Rasic, the only person to have guided Australia to a World Cup,

said that he hoped Australia would break its 30-year plus World Cup hoodoo and qualify.

"I hope they qualify for the World Cup but we are not street smart enough to play the South Americans," he said. "When it is question of us protecting say a 1-0 lead, they know every trick in the book. My biggest worry is that we are not street wise because with South American opposition, there is always that element of surprise."

Rasic said that Frank Farina, now into his fifth year as national coach, must also play the way he is most comfortable. In this case it is the 4-4-2 formation with the flat back four.

However, Rasic pointed out that Holland only played well when they used a sweeper.

While not advocating that Farina should change his tactics, Rasic made it clear that the flat back four was very difficult for players to master.

"If a coach believes in a flat back four, then that is much more difficult to specialize in," he told listeners. "There is lot of talk that Holland is a model for football but in 100 years of Dutch football, they have won only won one European Cup as a nation [1988]".

The appointment of Ron Smith as a Technical Consultant for Australia has also puzzled Rasic. The former Socceroo mentor made it clear he wasn't personally upset at Smith but rather at the process of the appointment.

"I feel it is an injustice when Joe Venglos travelled over here at great expense, then all of a sudden he was kept moving around very secretly," he said.

"His report was never released. Joe and I played together in the Middle European Cup as late as 1956. Joe was in Australia in 1967 and then became our national coach.

"When Joe was coaching NSW, I was coaching the Victorian State team. He was very helpful during the 1974 World Cup and we kept in contact post 74. However, when he was in Australia recently he didn't make a single call to me.

"We have never heard anymore about [Gerard] Houllier or seen the Venglos report. Why? On SBS Television Smith said that he had approached Farina with this incredible way of analysing the game.

"Bora Milutinovic, one of the greatest coaches of all time, used this computer analysis at the 1994 World Cup but still couldn't win major World Cup matches. It can assist you but it won't make Farina a better coach."

Rasic said that Australia needed to look at the major soccer playing countries of the world for a Technical Director. He was adamant that England was not the place and that Smith was not the right choice for Australia at the moment.

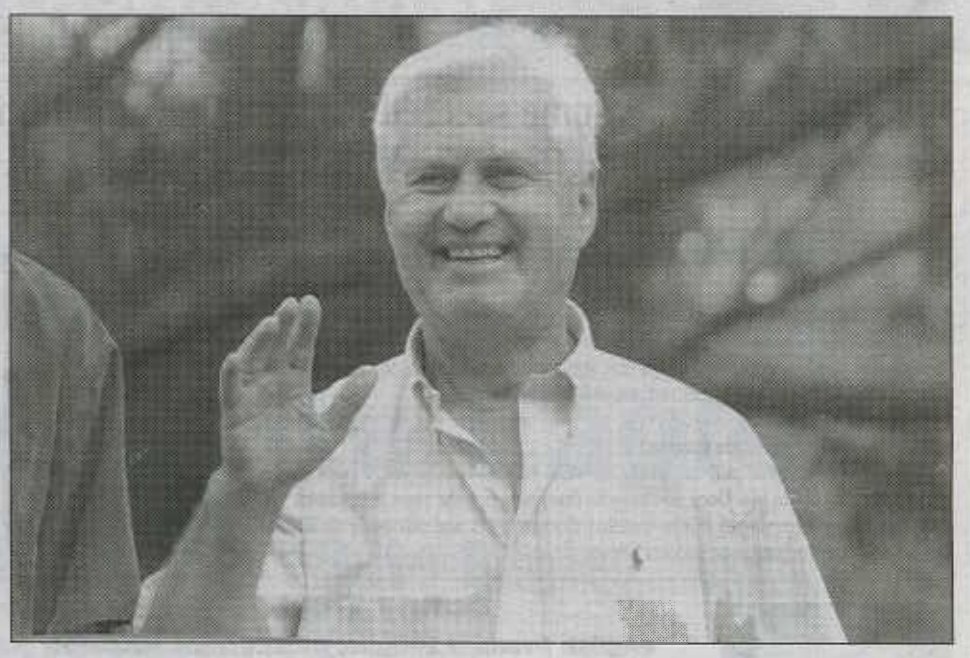
"You need to look at the major nations and not England. There is no English coach at any major English club or at the helm of any European country," he told listeners.

"Smith was part of the unsuccessful Young Socceroos campaign at the World Youth Championships in Moscow in 1985 with Jimmy Shoulder. But all of a sudden, 20 years later, we bring back the man with the computer who has found the solution."

The recent Australia-Turkey international series gave the home public an opportunity to see the Socceroos in action. Despite the absence of key players, it became clear that Australia needed to play more regularly together.

Rasic told listeners that he didn't believe in large squads of up to 30 players. He emphasized the importance of having a small squad who played together on a more regular basis.

"We should not select from 30 or 40 players," the former national coach said. "A small squad will always play better if they play together more regularly and you are not constantly swapping and changing players.



Former Socceroo coach Rale Rasic believes the Australian's need to be street-wise if they are to take on a South American side for qualification towards the next World Cup.

"Australia has to qualify for a World Cup at any cost, even if we have to defend for the full 90 minutes. We need to break that 30 year plus hoodoo."

Rasic was extremely praiseworthy of Marco Bresciano and Vince Grella. Both these players play in Italy's Serie A, a competition Rasic has always been particularly fond of. However, he raised doubts about Brett Emerton and to a lesser extent Tony Vidmar and Tony Popovic.

"I have my doubts about Emerton. I know that Farina has great faith in him but he is yet to convince me that he is a great player.

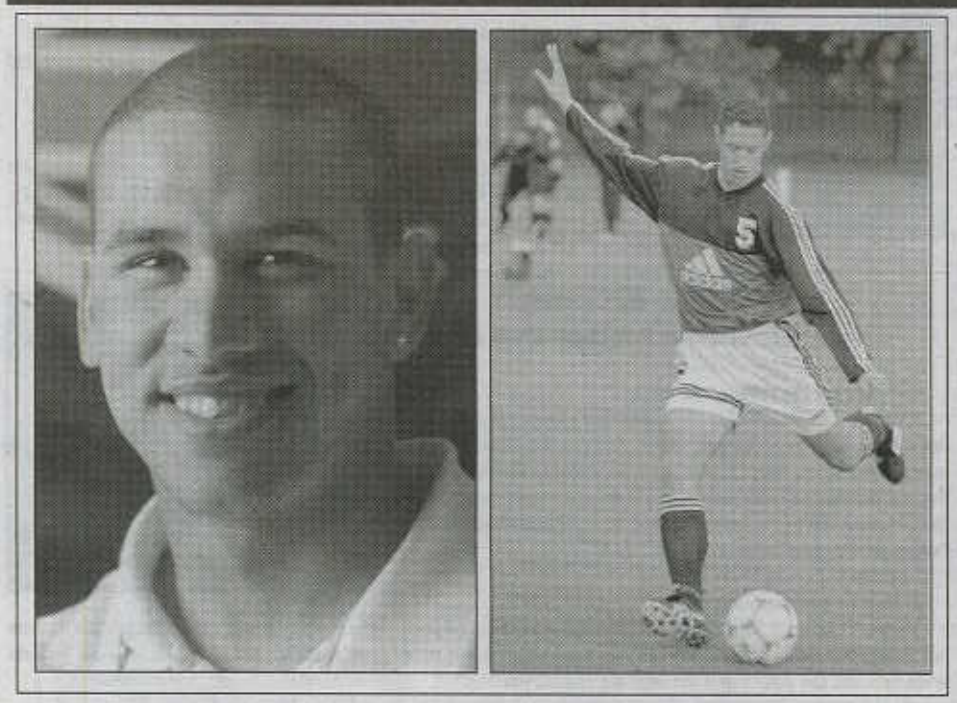
"Popovic is a permanent member of the squad but in two years time there could be question marks about his speed. Vidmar will be 35 or so when the World Cup kicks off which may be too old.

"Bresciano is an extraordinary footballer. He is as important as Viduka and Kewell, that is when Kewell is available, and Grella is maturing in the Italian Serie A.

"You can see it when Grella plays. He switched some balls around the park, from left to right over some 30 or 40 metres, and it is obvious that he is playing in big time football."

Rasic last week announced that he was to walk away from the game due to some decisions made by the ASA that he felt were not the way to go.

Kisnorbo - Madaschi eye permanent Roo spot



Take a good look at Australia's next defensive pairing of Patrick Kisnorbo (left) & Adrian Madaschi (right).

By Peter Damalas

Injuries and play-off fixtures have forced Socceroo coach Frank Farina's hand in terms of his defensive selections for the recently concluded Turkey series and Oceania segment of World Cup qualifiers.

The national team have been without the experienced first-choice centre-back pairing of Craig Moore and Tony Popovic- the defenders on whom hopes of World Cup qualification in 2006 are largely pinned.

It is widely perceived that Australia lack depth in this department, but two previously unheralded Scottish based defenders are firming as a useful back up for the campaign.

Adrian Madaschi and Patrick Kisnorbo have emerged from relative obscurity into contention for both the Australian Under-23 team that have qualified for the Athens Olympic Games, and the senior national side that will play its most important fixtures next year.

Their selection may be attributed to the impressive form displayed in the Scottish Premier League for two of the more unfashionable clubs in Partick Thistle and Hearts respectively.

Madaschi, endured a disappointing spell in Italy with Serie B club Atalanta before switching to Scotland. A member of the 1999 Joeys side which finished runner-up to Brazil after a penalty shoot-out in the final of the Under-17s World Youth Championships in New Zealand in 1999, the 21-year old claimed

Partick Thistle's Young Player of the Year Award, and has been rewarded with a twelve-month extension to his contract.

Meanwhile, Kisnorbo, 23, has also made steady progress with Hearts. The former South Melbourne player was involved in the club's momentous win over giants Rangers, as well as the fine UEFA Cup run.

Both participated in the 2001 World Youth Championships in Argentina, and the two friends have been re-united in the green and gold once again- making an Olyroo appearance together at the heart of defence in the scoreless draw with Greece in March, before playing again in the single goal loss to Tunisia in April.

"Just to be involved in the [Socceroos] is a big thrill, there are big incentives. It's a very good group and the team harmony is there. It's a new thing for me- being a fringe player- and it's a big buzz," Madaschi said.

"It gives me a greater opportunity to be amongst the coaching staff, where they can monitor my progress. It puts me in the limelight."

For Kisnorbo, selection for these qualifiers represents another step towards his dream of playing for Australia in a World Cup. His future in the national team was questioned when he declared himself unavailable for the Olympic Games qualifiers in Sydney early in the year.

"It's been a bit of a roller-coaster for me during these past six months. It was disappointing to miss out on the qualifiers, but I knew if I had left Scotland, I wouldn't get into the Hearts team and I would have to prove myself all over again.

"It's great to play alongside the big name [Australian] players. To be in the top twenty is an honor and a privilege, and it puts me on the map and in the running for the starting eleven for the Olympic Games," he said.

Madaschi and Kisnorbo have played a part in Australia's World Cup campaign, and concurred with their assessment of the current team and their opponents in Oceania.

"The whole team is mentally prepared," Kisnorbo said. "It can be hard sometimes to focus on each game, and we have to make sure we get the results needed to qualify.

"Our opponents are very organized, and have a few skills. They are hungry, and it is good to see them improve," Kisnorbo continued.

Madaschi also described the tactics employed by the Pacific Island nations against Australia.

"They put a lot of men behind the ball, and it is a matter of breaking them down at the start, which is sometimes not easy," he said.

Back to the topic of Australia's depth at the back.

The two tall defenders are keen to emulate the success of current Socceroo captain and Rangers stalwart Craig Moore.

Madaschi's time in Italy has allowed him to develop an ability to play the ball out of defence and create plays at the back, while Kisnorbo's experience of the rigorous and tempo of the Scottish game, as well as his European adventure, will put him in good stead for consideration in the next two years.

Beyond the Scottish based players, Farina has the likes of Olyroo captain Ljubo Milicevic, giant stopper David Tarka, Jon McKain and right-back Jade North to choose from.

"I wouldn't think that the depth is a problem," said Madaschi. "Personally, I think this is our best department considering the youngsters we have in the team. The future is bright."

Kisnorbo agrees. "All the boys are capable- the depth is coming through. All we need is experience."

Indeed, experience is the key to this World Cup campaign, and the more game time given to the likes of Madaschi and Kisnorbo in the Socceroos and Olyroos line-ups, the better the team's chances will be in seventeen months time.

The Socceroos potential own goal

By Mark Van Aiken

The two super powers of Oceania football had set backs last week, one perhaps more serious than the other. Australia's 2-2 draw with the Solomon Islands gifted the Melanesians the all-important second spot in Oceania and a ticket to the next round of Confederation and World Cup qualification. For New Zealand, the only Oceania nation to score in a World Cup finals, it means football oblivion.

While New Zealand would have been at extremely long odds to beat the Socceroos and then navigate past South America, the result is still a disaster for the Kiwi's. There is the lost revenue of 4 matches against their old sporting foe that could have reasonably drawn as many as 150,000 people through the gate. Add in the TV rights and new sponsors plus disgruntled existing sponsors who will be curious how the OFC's undisputed number 2 seed wont be playing any meaningful football for at least 3 years.

Before you start cackling at the predicament of the 'All Whites' consider that much of the aforementioned ramifications for Kiwi football are true for Australia. The 2-2 result means the ASA will also be bereft of the very same Gate receipts and TV dollars. In a pure football sense, Farina's side will now also face a significantly more difficult task.

New Zealand showed through out the tournament that they had little in their arsenal for Australia to fear. So a trip to Auckland to play in front of a relatively poor Kiwi side in front of an apathetic fifteen to twenty five thousand people becomes a trip to play in front of 30,000 frenzied Solomon Islanders and an energetic team with nothing to lose. Add to this the lure, or lack thereof, of the Solomon's for most European based Socceroos who would surely question the quality of amenities that the pacific minnow affords.

Realistically this still shouldn't be enough to stop the Socceroos advancing to the next stage towards Germany in 2005 and 2006. The expected tough and steamy conditions faced in the Solomon's may well be the team bonding experience the Australian's have so long craved. Solomon's coach Alan Gillett muses that the Solomon people will welcome the Aussies with open arms. It may serve our cause better if they don't. This may be the dress rehearsal for what is certain to be a very in inhospitable arrival in South America next year.

And while New Zealand licks it wounds and points its fingers it should also begin a period of inward soul searching. Some of the New Zealand media and Soccer NZ have labeled Australia's draw a kin to Trevor Chappell's under arm ball. While Chappell's action was nothing but deliberate we can only, perhaps sadly, assume that the Socceroos draw was anything but concocted. The other key difference is that apart from Rugby, League and perhaps Netball there is nothing the Kiwis love more than Cricket. Not so soccer.

A quick glance at the New Zealand Herald's web site will give you an idea of what our Tasman rivals think of the world game. While hardly a threat to the Rugby codes or Aussie Rules or of course Cricket in the summer, soccer holds a fairly prominent part in the Australian sporting pantheon. Try finding soccer in NZ's flagship daily paper.

When clicking on Sports you are greeted with a choice of sub-headings, much like our own papers. What you find at the Herald is listings for Rugby, Rugby League, Netball, Basketball, Racing and Cricket. Surely an oversight you say?

Scrolling down on a secondary table we have the following list; Baseball, Cycling, more Basketball, Rugby and Cricket, Indoor Bowls, Orienteering and Tennis. On the weekends there is even a tab for – wait for it- Australian Rules Football. This is an indictment on soccer in New Zealand. Perhaps the Solomon Islands sports fans are more deserving torchbearers for Oceania soccer.

When the Solomon Islanders touched down in Honiara they were swamped by fans and treated like royalty. Soccer is the beautiful game but it's also a game where if you are well drilled and disciplined you can make it damn hard for your opponents to score. If, and this scribe doubts he did, Farina thought the road through Honiara was going to be any easier he might just have to think again. The ASA will be licking their own wounds after counting the mountain of potential lost revenue of a Kiwi-Aussie series. The Australian fan on the other hand is looking at what he or she always has…a seat on Lufthansa in June 2006.

Jubilation for the Solomon Islands as the photo shows their monumental draw against the Socceroos.

KIWIS FALL FROM GRACE

New Zealand Soccer boss Bill MacGowan has rejected claims the All Whites were humbled at this year's Oceania Nations Cup due to lack of preparation.

MacGowan suggested those complaining at the non-existent pre-tournament buildup were grumbling with the benefit of hindsight.

"There was no talk about lack of preparation when we performed really well against Australia in the opening match," MacGowan told the NZ Herald.

"Effectively, we had two warm-up games for Vanuatu, against Australia and the Solomon Islands, and the team had been in camp eight days.

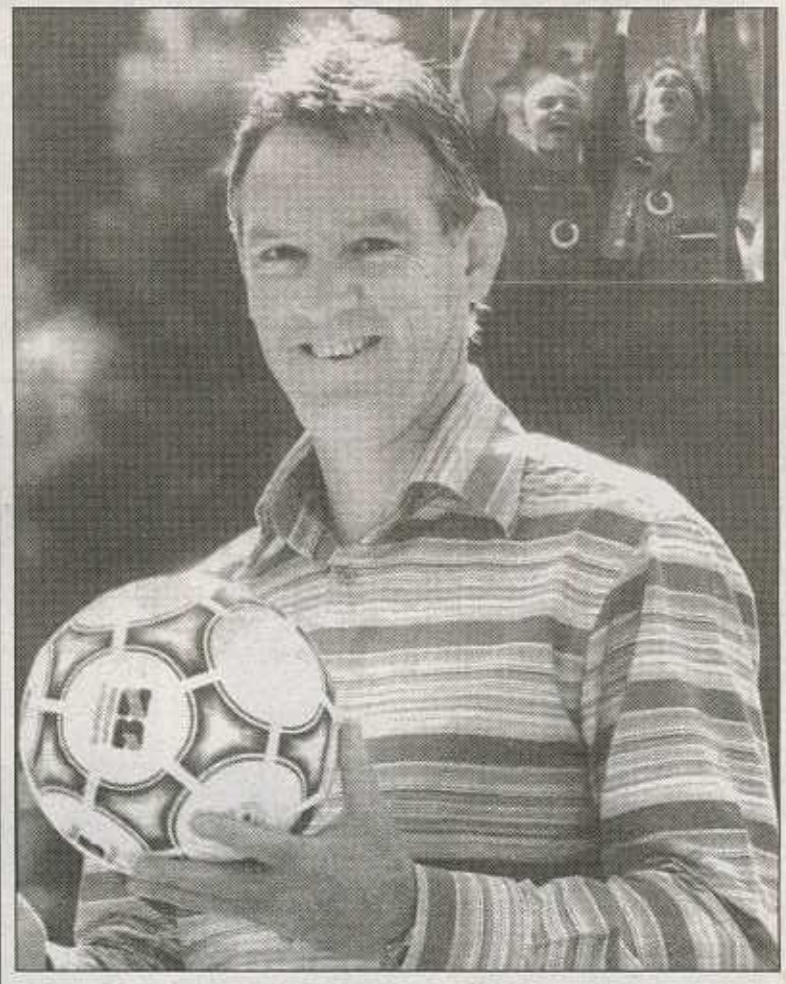
"I know how much Turkey would have cost and it would have put New Zealand Soccer on the brink of bankruptcy had we taken it on."

New Zealand were arguing that the Socceroos had the luck of the draw and claimed that it was rigged with both sides meeting in the first match.

The loss for the Kiwis was a setback however to New Zealand football but has prompted a full scale clean up in helping the game for the better in years to come.

Solomon Islands grabbed the final spot to take on the Aussies in September next year prompting a possible over-haul of the management and its players for the new season.

Australian signs with Manchester United



Sporstec chief executive Phillip Jackson has signed a lucrative deal with Manchester United.

By Mark Stavroulakis

Phillip Jackson has just signed a lucrative deal with English Premier League glamour club Manchester United, but not as a player.

The Mona Vale technology company owner of Sportstec has signed with the English giants.

Sportsec's programs allow coaches to monitor a team or an individual performance by a player which caught the attention of Manchester United and signed and sealed the deal three-weeks ago.

"It's been a lot of hard yards", said Jackson to the 'Daily Telegraph'.

Jackson's success in gaining Manchester United was his relationship with former Real Madrid chief and hopeful Manchester United Assistant Coach Carlos Queiroz.

"He (Queiroz) was the main driver He was very interested".

The staff of 12 struck a deal through Queiroz however things did change when he and star English skipper David Beckham left United for Real Madrid.

"We had to go back to square one".

A huge sum which could not be given out by *ABSW* was on the table for Sportstec from United that satisfied all parties as the product was not going to be given out for free.

"They paid real money for this. We don't give away our systems".

Having formed the company back in 1999, Mr Jackson turned over $1 million in business.

It is believed that Sportstec will manage to do $4 million after the full affects of Manchester United take place thus creating more promotion for any other respective club or clubs across the globe.

At the moment, Sportstec operates in 22 countries and is also associated with a wide range of sporting teams such as Rugby League, NBA and NBL basketball, AFL, NHL hockey and the cricket.

Apart from Manchester United, Bolton, West Ham United and Wimbeldon have secured the services of Jackson's company.

As has the Penrith Panthers, Canberra Raiders, North Queensland Cowboys, Seattle Supersonics, Sydney Swans, Buffalo Sabers, Australian men's and women's basketball teams, NSW state men's and women's cricket teams and final Australian national men's and women's hockey sides.

Video analysis in refining coaching tactics is also something else the company produces.

The way this happens is that Sporstec would take a video feed of a specific game in one of the sports mentioned above.

After taping the feed, the information is sent into the computer, creating a file which implement coaches to locus on a particular element of play.

When the program is attached with a program called Track Performance, it gets coaches to keep a tab on a team or even an opponent from a rival side.

New ASA technical support and direction manager Ron Smith was a keen advocate of the use of programs in obtaining up to date information on the round ball game.

Having come under scrutiny from former 1974 Socceroo coach Rale Rasic in believing that computers cannot be apart of the game, the new link up with clubs such as Manchester United have only raised another new issue in the game of football: technology will take hold of the game.

Whether it is a good or bad point is the point of argument however it has made the coaches job a little easier in monitoring players and in their developments during their careers.

Phillip Jackson is hoping that more football clubs will follow United's lead in upgrading for the future.

Euro 2004 - Championships

Galant Greece crash opener

PORTUGAL 1
GREECE 2

Portugal tripped up badly in their Euro 2004 opener against Greece, goals from Georgios Karagounis and a penalty from Angelis Basinas consigning the hosts to a shock 2-1 defeat to give the Greeks their first ever win at a major championships.

Portugal will have to emulate Holland in 1988 if they are to become only the second side in the tournament's history to lose their opening match and win the title.

Portuguese playmaker Luis Figo admitted they had paid for their mistakes in this Group A curtain-raiser.

"When you are playing at a high level and make those mistakes you pay," said the 31-year-old Real Madrid star whose second-half injury-time corner was headed home by Cristiano Ronaldo.

"We made some bad mistakes and lost a lot of ball in midfield.

"I think the game started really difficult for us and with the early goal we tried to struggle and fight but in the end we deserved to lose - the Greeks had two chances and they took them both.

Greece's fortunes have been transformed since the arrival of coach Otto Rehhagel.

Portugal's quest to at last get their hands on a major trophy after decades of disappointment got off to the worst possible start when Karagounis pounced on a sloppy pass from Chelsea's new 20 million euro signing Paulo Ferreira on the left.

The 27-year-old Inter Milan player slammed the ball past keeper Ricardo from 20 metres out for a seventh minute lead as captain Fernando Couto fatally backed off challenging him.

The Greek defence afforded Figo precious little respect, closing the Real Madrid star down at every opportunity although he floated in a dangerous looking but eventually harmless freekick just before the break.

Minutes after taking to the pitch the teenaged Ronaldo handed the Greeks a handsome gift when knocking over Georgios Seitaridis, referee Pierluigi Collina's hand immediately pointing to the spot.

Basinas sent Ricardo the wrong way as he slotted the ball into the top right hand corner.

Greece will face Spain in their next match on Thursday (aet) while Portugal must defeat Russia in Lisbon to have any chance of progressing to the quarter-finals.

Greece's Georgios Karagounis, (centre), celebrates with his teammates Panagiotis Fyssas, (left), and Mihalis Kapsis after their 2-1 victory over Portugal.

Greece's Georgios Karagounis celebrates after scoring against Portugal.

Spanish sub sinks Russia

SPAIN 1
RUSSIA 0

Spain needed an inspired substitution to defeat Russia 1-0 in their opening match of Euro 2004 as Juan Carlos Valeron scored the winner just 36 seconds after coming on.

Spain, traditionally slow starters, are now in the driving seat to qualify for the quarter-finals.

With first choice strikers Raul and Fernando Morientes unable to break the deadlock, Spanish coach Inaki Saez threw on Deportivo La Coruna midfielder Valeron on the hour mark and he fired home Carles Puyol's cross.

"The Valeron substitution is one we often try and it works well. It certainly did today," Saez said.

"The plan was to score in the first half but the goal came in the end and the three points are really important."

Spain's win at the Algarve Stadium eases the tension ahead of their next match against Greece on Wednesday, when victory would guarantee them passage into the last eight as they bid to win the European title for the first time in 40 years.

Russian coach Georgy Yartsev claimed the heat would work against his charges and they looked markedly slower in the opening quarter hour as Spain camped in their half.

After just two minutes Real Madrid striker Raul almost notched his 39th goal for his country but his shot arrowed wide of the post.

Spain, the beaten 1984 finalists, gradually took control and Swiss referee Urs Meier cautioned three Russian players - Rolan Gusev, Roman Sharonov and captain Alexei Smertin - in the first half hour.

With the Russian rearguard walking a tightrope, Valencia winger Vicente was being afforded too much space and he created a clear chance on 35 minutes, darting to the byline before cutting a pinpoint cross back to Morientes but the Monaco marksman crashed a shot at goalkeeper Sergey Ovchinnikov.

Sixty seconds later Russia's talisman Dimitri Alenichev, who plays his club football for FC Porto in Portugal, sparked his team into life with a majestic run as he danced around two Spanish defenders with brilliant footwork only to see his effort parried by Iker Casillas.

"The save by Casillas from Alenichev was a turning point in the match," Saez admitted.

The second half interval did not break Russia's resurgence but then Spain almost took the lead in the 51st minute when Raul headed narrowly wide.

Saez reacted by introducing Valeron in place of Morientes on the hour mark and it proved an inspired move with him staking a claim for a starting berth with a clinical finish after Puyol pulled the ball back.

Spain's Raul, (left), tries to break clear of Russia's Alexei Smertin.

Spain's Juan Carlos Valeron, (right), takes the ball past Russia's captain Alexei Smertin, (centre), and approaches Russian goalkeeper Sergey Ovchinnikov before scoring the only goal in Spain's 1-0 win over Russia.

Euro 2004 - Championships

Zidane buries England

FRANCE 2
ENGLAND 1

David Beckham's missed penalty cost England dear as they were dramatically ambushed in their opening Euro 2004 game in Lisbon.

Zinedine Zidane grabbed two goals in injury-time to cancel out Frank Lampard's first-half opener and grab an astonishing come-from-behind victory.

Zidane equalised with a superb long-range free-kick then moments later blasted away the match-winning penalty after David James up-ended Thierry Henry in the box.

It was an amazing end to a match which England seemed to have in the bag after Lampard headed home Beckham's 38th-minute cross.

And Beckham's 72nd-minute penalty which was saved by Fabien Barthez did not seem to matter as England battled away.

Sven-Goran Eriksson's men had clung on through an increasingly frantic second half with defensive replacement Ledley King outstanding in relegating Henry to a virtual passenger.

Paul Scholes created England's first chance after five minutes when he sent Michael Owen scampering into the box and the Liverpool man was only denied by a fine William Gallas challenge.

Zidane began to exploit the space afforded him in the centre and came close twice with Lampard heading his free-kick behind then James seeing a long-range effort flash just wide.

Gallas was required to make another saving challenge in the 26th minute to deny Steven Gerrard in the left side of the box.

England finally got their reward seven minutes from time after Beckham was fouled by Bixente Lizarazu on the right and whipped in the free-kick for Lampard to put them ahead.

France stretched England at the start of the second period and as tension increased tempers began to fray with Scholes entering the referee's notebook and Rooney lucky to avoid joining him.

But Beckham's well-placed penalty was brilliantly saved by Barthez to his right.

Moments later the former Manchester United keeper almost went from hero to villain when he allowed a shot from substitute Darius Vassell to bounce up and hit him in the face before he scrambled clear.

But England were ambushed in the final seconds as the brilliant Zidane grabbed an extraordinary victory.

Frank Lampard celebrates scoring the opening goal of the night

Dour draw for Group B battlers

SWITZERLAND 0
CROATIA 0

Ten-man Switzerland battled to a goalless draw with a disappointing Croatia side in an ugly opening Euro 2004 Group B clash on Sunday.

A game devoid of flowing football was littered with stoppages as Portuguese referee Lucillo Batista produced nine yellow cards, two of which meant a sending-off for Swiss midfielder Johann Vogel.

He was cautioned only five minutes into the opening half for a foul on Croatian midfielder Niko Kovac and sent off when he fouled him again and kicked the ball away early in the second period.

The nearest either side came to a goal was when Croatian midfielder Ivica Olic grazed the crossbar with a header when he should have scored just before halftime.

Vogel, a key defensive holding player for the Swiss, was sent off four minutes into the second half, leaving his depleted side to battle in torrid heat against a physical side.

The Croats were also not at all shy when it came to simulation and two of their five yellow cards were shown for diving when they reached the penalty box, striker Dado Prso and attacking midfielder Ivica Mornar being the culprits.

The other three bookings went to midfielder Nenad Bjelica, substitute Milan Rapaic and left back Boris Zivkovic for fouls while, in addition to Vogel, midfielder Benjamin Huggel was cautioned for a foul and goalkeeper Jorg Stiel for dissent.

Both teams had declared it was imperative to win their opening clash, as a single point would not be enough, but both failed to find the inspiration required on an afternoon of frayed tempers.

In the opening half, Swiss striker Alexander Frei had a 20-metre shot saved while, at the other end, Stiel mixed decent stops with erratic errors.

He misjudged the bounce of the ball twice and was lucky when Niko Kovac headed over from an unmarked position after 36 minutes and, again, when the lively Olic's follow-up header grazed the bar just before the interval.

In the second half, defences dominated. Huggel fired in a strong shot that was saved and, in the closing minutes as Croatia searched for a breakthrough, Prso had a shot on the turn blocked and Niko Kovac fired wide from a Mornar cross.

Stephané Chapuisat (left) is tackled by Ivica Mornar

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Greece	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
2. Spain	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
3. Portugal	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
4. Russia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. France	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
2. Croatia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
3. Switzerland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
4. England	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

All Matches Phase 1

15 June 2004 - Group D

Germany	19:45	Netherlands	Dragão - Porto
Czech Republic	17:00	Latvia	Aveiro Municipal - Aveiro

16 June 2004 - Group A

Greece	17:00	Spain	Bessa - Porto
Russia	19:45	Portugal	Luz - Lisbon

17 June 2004 - Group B

England	17:00	Switzerland	Cidade de Coimbra - Coimbra
Croatia	19:45	France	Dr. Magalhães Pessoa - Leiria

18 June 2004 - Group C

Bulgaria	17:00	Denmark	Braga Municipal - Braga
Italy	19:45	Sweden	Dragão - Porto

19 June 2004 - Group D

Latvia	17:00	Germany	Bessa - Porto
Netherlands	19:45	C Republic	Aveiro Municipal - Aveiro

20 June 2004 - Group A

Spain	19:45	Portugal	José Alvalade - Lisbon
Russia	19:45	Greece	Algarve - Faro-Loulé

21 June 2004 - Group B

Croatia	19:45	England	Luz - Lisbon
Switzerland	19:45	France	Cidade de Coimbra - Coimbra

22 June 2004 - Group C

Italy	19:45	Bulgaria	D. Afonso Henriques - Guimarães
Denmark	19:45	Sweden	Bessa - Porto

23 June 2004 - Group D

Netherlands	19:45	Latvia	Braga Municipal - Braga
Germany	19:45	Czech Rep	José Alvalade - Lisbon

Quarter-final Matches

24 June 2004 - Match 25			
Winner A	19:45	Runner-up B	Luz - Lisbon
25 June 2004 - Match 26			
Winner B	19:45	Runner-up A	José Alvalade - Lisbon
26 June 2004 - Match 27			
Winner C	19:45	Runner-up D	Algarve - Faro-Loulé
27 June 2004 - Match 28			
Winner D	19:45	Runner-up C	Dragão - Porto

Semi-final Matches

30 June 2004 - Match 29		
Winner Match 25	19:45	Winner Match 27
	José Alvalade - Lisbon	
01 July 2004 - Match 30		
Winner Match 26	19:45	Winner Match 28
	Dragão - Porto	

Final Match

04 July 2004 - Match 31		
Winner Match 29	19:45	Winner Match 30
	Luz - Lisbon	

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

LOCALS COME TO LAZIO'S RESCUE

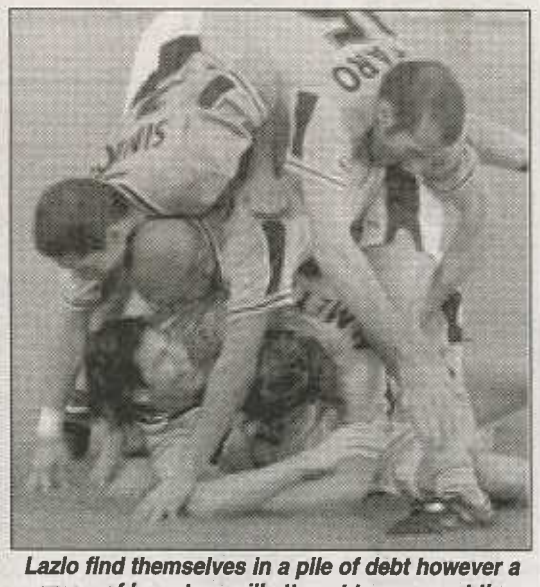
A group of Roman investors will plough money into debt-strapped Serie A side Lazio, the club announced as it tries to pull itself out of a deep financial crisis.

Lazio said in a statement that Federlazio, a regional group of small and medium businesses, would take the first step and set up a vehicle for Rome's entrepreneurs to invest money in the club that finished sixth in Serie A last season.

"It is a significant step forward, the creation of a public company model that sees strong participation from fans but also from the world of Rome's entrepreneurs," Rome mayor Walter Veltroni said.

"It is a sign of the pride and confidence the city has in Lazio."

Lazio, one of three Italian clubs listed on the stock exchange, has battled with financial troubles after its former majority owner, food group Cirio, was put into liquidation.



Lazio find themselves in a pile of debt however a group of investors will attempt to resurrect the fortunes of the Roman giants.

It launched a capital increase last month of 188.6 million euros worth of new shares which was due to close on June 14 and is vital for it to keep running.

The club has also said it will halve the costs of paying its team by 2007.

Lazio did not name the entrepreneurs who would be buying into the club. Property developer Stefano Ricucci recently raised his stake to 3.2 percent.

BRAWLING BOCA DOWN RIVER

Rolando Schiavi's goal gave Boca Juniors a 1-0 victory over River Plate in a Copa Libertadores semi-final marred by a brawl that ended with police intervention.

The brawl lasted seven minutes in the first half, and there were three expulsions.

The goal came after Guillermo Barros Schelotto fired a hard pass from the right sideline to Schiavi in the 28th minute. Schiavi managed to head it into the goal with defenders all around him.

The goal sparked raucous cheering from Boca fans.

Authorities had taken the unprecedented step of barring rival River fans from the stadium. A crowd of 48,000 attended, but thousands of seats went unsold amid concerns for security that prompted the unusual step of keeping opposing fans away.

The brawling began in the 30th minute, after a violent foul by River star Marcelo Gallardo against Boca's Raul Cascini triggered fisticuffs. That fight prompted referee Claudio Martin to expel both players.

As more players piled onto the pitch during the fighting, some threw punches and slapped or kicked each other. Boca goalkeeper Roberto Abbondanzieri took a punch to the face but stayed on to play the rest of the game despite a heavy nosebleed and a gash to the cheek.

Riot police were needed to help restore order after the first fight escalated into a brawl.

Even after the game resumed in the 39th minute, one more red card was to come.

At the 42nd minute, River's Ariel Garce slammed into Boca's Fabian Vargas, and the referee ejected the irate River player. From then on it was River with nine players against Boca's 10 in a match Boca dominated offensively.

In the second semi-final, Once Caldas of Colombia held Sao Paulo to a scoreless draw and snapped the Brazilians' 17-game winning streak at home.

The surprising Colombians, hoping to reach their first Copa Libertadores final, can advance with a win in the second leg on June 16 in Manizales. Once Caldas is unbeaten at home, where its won its last five matches.

Sao Paulo, the former two-time champion seeking its first South American club title in 11 years, dominated the match from the start, but failed to capitalize on its scoring chances in front of more than 70,000 fans at Morumbi stadium.

Striker Luis Fabiano, the competition's leading scorer with eight goals, was marked closely by two defenders and was never a real threat. Sao Paulo, which has enjoyed the tournament's best campaign among the semifinalists, outshot Once Caldas 14-2.

COPA LIBERTADORES — SEMI-FINALS

Sao Paulo 0 Once Caldas 0 — (Second leg: June 16), Boca Juniors 1 River Plate 0 — (Second leg: June 17).

Rolando Schiavi (right) of Boca Juniors, is embraced by teammate Antonio Barijho after scoring against River Plate.

BRAZIL TO REST UP DURING COPA

Ronaldo will sit out the Copa America to prepare for the remainder of the South American World Cup qualifiers.

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira criticised the timing of this year's Copa America and said the world champions would rest their top players.

The tournament, featuring the 10 South American nations plus Mexico and Costa Rica, will be held in Peru in July.

But it takes place in the middle of the South American World Cup qualifiers, in which the continent's teams play each other home and way.

Parreira confirmed Ronaldo and captain Cafu would be among the players to stay at home.

"The qualifiers are a South American championship, we play each other home and away," Parreira told reporters.

"Playing it (the Copa America) every two years and holding it during the qualifiers makes it a problem.î

Ronaldo told the Estado news agency: "Now, I want to make the most of my holiday and make a good return against Bolivia (in September)."

Parreira said he was satisfied with Brazilís progress as the five-time world champions top the South American group with 13 points from seven games and remain unbeaten.

Although Brazil are the only team to have played at every World Cup finals, they struggled to qualify for 2002 and only guaranteed their place in their last match against Venezuela.

Brazil then went on to win a record fifth World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

AZZURRI SUCCESS OMEN FOR SENIORS

Italy maintained their dominance of the European under-21 championship, defeating Serbia & Montenegro 3-0 in the final in Bochum to win the title for a fifth time in the past seven tournaments.

Defender Daniele de Rossi headed in from a corner after 32 minutes to give the Italians the lead before two goals in two minutes from Cesare Bovo and Parma striker Alberto Gilardino sealed victory late in the game.

Italy's under 21 squad celebrate their European under-21 championship victory.

Serbia & Montenegro finished the match with nine men after defender Nikola Mijailovic committed a second bookable offence in the 34th minute and Branislav Ivanovic was given a straight red card in injury time.

In the third-place playoff in Oberhausen, Portugal also won a place at the Athens Olympics, defeating Sweden 3-2 after extra time.

Sweden looked to be heading for defeat in normal time but with seconds remaining substitute Markus Rosenberg scored to level at 2-2. Carlitos scored the winning goal in the second period of extra time.

Italy, Serbia-Montenegro and Portugal qualify for the Athens Olympic Games in August.

EURO 2004

STATISTICS

Euro 2004 Preview

UNCAPPED PLAYERS

Player	Country
Valeri Bojinov	Bulgaria
Bastian Schweinsteiger	Germany
Lukas Podolski	Germany
Moreira	Portugal
Daniel Aranzubia	Spain
Johan Vonlanthen	Switzerland

MOST INTERNATIONAL GOALS

Goals	Player	Country	Position	Caps
40	Patrick Kluivert	Netherlands	FW	78
38	Raul	Spain	FW	71
31	Luis Figo	Portugal	FW	103
29	Pauleta	Portugal	FW	56
28	Jon Dahl Tomasson	Denmark	FW	59
28	David Trezeguet	France	FW	51
27	Jan Koller	Czech Rep	FW	50
25	Thierry Henry	France	FW	58
25	Michael Owen	England	FW	55
24	Rui Costa	Portugal	MF	89
24	Henrik Larsson	Sweden	FW	73
24	Vladimir Smicer	Czech Rep	MF	67

The deadliest striker at Euro 2004 is Patrick Kluivert who has an amazing 40 goals from 78 caps.

LONGEST INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Debut	Player	Country	Position	Caps	Goals
21/06/89	S Chapuisat	Switzerland	FW	100	21
26/09/90	Frank de Boer	Netherlands	DF	110	13
03/11/90	A Mostovoi	Russia	MF	64	13
19/12/90	Fernando Couto	Portugal	DF	106	7
12/10/91	Luis Figo	Portugal	FW	103	31
08/04/92	M Zemlinskis	Latvia	DF	92	8
22/04/92	Christian Worns	Germany	DF	55	0
26/08/92	Vitalijs Astafjevs	Latvia	MF	101	10
14/11/92	Bixente Lizarazu	France	DF	93	2
23/01/93	Stephane Henchoz	Switzerland	DF	65	0

Stephane Chapuisat has had a long a long and distinguished career for Switzerland.

BEST OF THE REST-ING

Euro 2004 brings together the best teams on the continent. However, some of Europe's finest players, including Filippo Inzaghi, Rio Ferdinand and Andrij Schevchenko, will not be showing off their skills in Portugal.

Shevchenko, arguably the player of the season in Serie A with champions AC Milan, will stay at home because Ukraine failed to qualify.

Barcelona's Rustu Recber is another of the "missing". He helped Turkey to a surprise place in the last four at the 2002 World Cup, conceding four goals in six matches.

The Turks were expected to cruise into Euro 2004 but were dumped out by surprise package Latvia, who will be competing at a major soccer tournament for the first time here.

Winger Ryan Giggs, one of the driving forces at Manchester United, is yet to play at a World Cup and European Championship for Wales, a country which nearly made it this time before losing to Russia.

Suspension is the reason for the absence of England defender Ferdinand and France striker Djibril Cisse from one of the big games of the group stage in the June 12-July 4 tournament.

Ferdinand is serving an eight-month ban for missing a dope test while Cisse was suspended for five matches, reduced to four on appeal in April, for violent conduct during an under-21 international.

The central striker in the tournament's Absentees XI would be Cisse or Italy's Filippo Inzaghi, deemed not fit enough after his recent injury for coach Giovanni Trapattoni to risk.

Spain's Jose Antonio Reyes is one player who probably didn't expect to watch Euro 2004 on television.

Not such a surprise is that Spanish midfielder Gaizka Mendieta is missing the tournament. So is Mista despite his contribution to Valencia's UEFA Cup final victory over Olympique Marseille.

Also unfit is Russia's veteran captain Viktor Onopko. In addition the Russians have lost fellow central defender Sergei Ignashevich, like Onopko with a knee injury.

Absentees XI (coached by Belgium's Aime Anthuenis): Rustu Recber; Christoph Metzelder, Rio Ferdinand, Viktor Onopko; Gaizka Mendieta, Roy Keane, Ryan Giggs, Sebastian Deisler; Andrij Shevchenko, Filippo Inzaghi, Djibril Cisse.

CLUBS ANALYSIS

Club	Players
Bayern Munich	9
Barcelona	9
Juventus	9
AC Milan	8
Arsenal	8
Benfica	8
Chelsea	8
Inter Milan	8
Liverpool	8
Manchester United	8

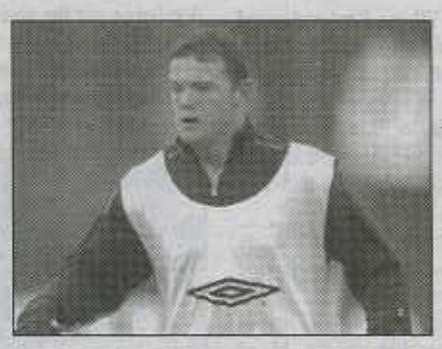
DOMESTIC LEAGUE ANALYSIS

Players	Domestic League	Country
57	Premier League	England
50	Bundesliga	Germany
46	Serie A	Italy
36	Primera Liga	Spain
26	Russian premier league	Russia
21	Ligue 1	France
20	Portuguese premier league	Portugal
17	Greek premier league	Greece
16	Dutch first division	Netherlands
12	Bulgarian first division	Bulgaria

Euro 2004 Preview

OLDEST PLAYERS

Age	Player	Country	Position	Caps	DOB
36	Jorg Stiel	Switzerland	GK	18	03/03/68
35	Alexandr Mostovoi	Russia	MF	64	22/08/68
35	Marcel Desailly	France	DF	115	07/09/68
35	Santiago Canizares	Spain	GK	42	18/02/69
34	Oliver Kahn	Germany	GK	68	15/06/69
34	Stephane Chapuisat	Switzerland	FW	100	28/06/69
34	Fernando Couto	Portugal	DF	106	02/08/69
34	Rene Henriksen	Denmark	DF	61	27/08/69
34	Jens Lehmann	Germany	GK	18	10/11/69
34	Pierre van Hooijdonk	Netherlands	FW	39	29/11/69



One of the youngest players and stars of this year's Euro is English striker Wayne Rooney

YOUNGEST PLAYERS

Age	Player	Country	Position	Caps	DOB
18	Igor Akinfeev	Russia	GK	1	08/04/86
18	Valeri Bojinov	Bulgaria	FW	0	15/02/86
18	Johan Vonlanthen	Switzerland	FW	0	01/02/86
18	Wayne Rooney	England	FW	12	24/10/85
19	Lukas Podolski	Germany	FW	0	04/06/85
19	Cristiano Ronaldo	Portugal	FW	6	05/02/85
19	B Schweinsteiger	Germany	MF	0	01/08/84
20	Wesley Sneijder	Netherlands	MF	8	09/06/84
20	Fernando Torres	Spain	FW	5	20/03/84
20	Vladimir Bystrov	Russia	MF	2	31/01/84

DOMESTIC/FOREIGN REPRESENTATION

Country	Foreign Clubs	Domestic Clubs
Croatia	22	1
Denmark	20	3
Sweden	19	4
Czech Rep	18	5
Netherlands	17	6
France	15	8
Switzerland	13	10
Latvia	12	11
Bulgaria	11	12
Greece	8	15
Portugal	7	16
Germany	3	20
Russia	3	20
England	2	21
Spain	1	22
Italy	0	23

MOST CAPPED PLAYERS

Caps	Name	Country	Goals
115	Marcel Desailly	France	3
110	Frank de Boer	Netherlands	13
106	Fernando Couto	Portugal	7
103	Luis Figo	Portugal	31
101	Vitalijs Astafjevs	Latvia	10
100	Stephane Chapuisat	Switzerland	21
98	Lilian Thuram	France	2
93	Karel Poborsky	Czech Rep	7
93	Bixente Lizarazu	France	2
92	Mihails Zemlinskis	Latvia	8

Inspirational Frenchman Marcel Desailly has more caps for his country than any other player at Euro 2004.

SQUAD OVERVIEW

Teams	Most capped player	Topscorer	Total caps	Total goals	Avg age
Bulgaria	Daniel Borimirov (66)	Dimitar Berbatov (19)	611	50	28
Croatia	Dario Simic (66)	N.Kovac/I.Olic (5)	500	31	27
Czech Rep	Karel Poborsky (93)	Jan Koller(27)	632	119	27
Denmark	Thomas Helveg (83)	Jon Dahl Tomasson (28)	638	84	27
England	David Beckham (67)	Michael Owen (25)	644	71	26
France	Marcel Desailly (115)	David Trezeguet (28)	946	137	28
Germany	Christian Ziege (72)	Michael Ballack (19)	636	75	27
Greece	Theo.Zagorakis (88)	Themistoklis Nikolaidis (17)	747	74	28
Italy	Fabio Caanavaro (78)	Alessandro Del Piero (23)	635	65	28
Latvia	Vitalijs Astafjevs (101)	Marians Pahars (15)	988	89	29
Netherlands	Frank de Boer (110)	Patrick Kluivert (40)	976	149	28
Portugal	Fernando Couto (106)	Luis Figo (31)	681	126	27
Russia	Alexandr Mostovoi (64)	Alexandr Mostovoi (13)	381	40	26
Spain	Raul (71)	Raul (38)	501	90	26
Sweden	Henrik Larsson (73)	Henrik Larsson (24)	657	83	27
Switzerland	Stephane Chapuisat (100)	Chapuisat (21)	621	68	28

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RETRAVISION

Retravision NSW Premier League Finals Series 2003/04

GRADE 20 GRAND FINAL

Eleventh-hour White Eagles

By Greg Stock

Bonnyrigg Whites Eagles claimed the Grade 20 Grand Final after an exhilarating eight-goal thriller.

Parramatta Eagles, the Grade 20 Premier, couldn't maintain their regular season dominance, going down 5-3 at Marconi Stadium.

Parramatta grabbed the advantage when Paul Davies opened the scoring after eight minutes.

But Bonnyrigg, which has beaten Parramatta on penalties in the Major Semi Final, drew level after 20 minutes through Alex Canak.

Bonnyrigg rolled over the top of Parramatta for the middle part of the first half, taking a 2-1 lead through Almir Dizdaric in the 28th minute.

But by half time it was all square once again, Paul Downs striking for Parramatta to make it 2-2.

The topsy-turvy affair tilted back in Parramatta's favor three minutes after the interval. Patrick Cappuccio's goal in the 47th ignited this pulsating Grand Final.

On the hour, the turning point arrived. Almir Dizdaric scored for Bonnyrigg to lock up the match at 3-3 and it was enough to fire up the White Eagles turbocharger.

Two minutes later, Nikola Zonjic broke Parramatta's hearts. It was 4-3, but Bonnyrigg put the match beyond doubt with a third goal inside five minutes.

Dejan Malenica grabbed the sealer, and Bonnyrigg held on for a memorable 5-3 victory.

Parramatta players celebrate a first half goal

Number one: Bonnyrigg players celebrate a goal

BONNYRIGG WE 5
(A.Canak 20', A. Dizdaric 28', 60', N. Zonjic 62' D.Malenica 65')
PARRAMATTA EAGLES 3
(P.Davies 8', P.Downs 44', P.Cappuccio 47')

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: Darko Gorevski, George Radmonovic, Nikola Zonjic, Frank Pellizzeri, Mark Sartoretto, Chris Hochuli, Almir Dizdaric, Dalibor Drca, Dejan Malenica, Micki Simonovic, Alex Canak
Subs not used: Miguel Fernando, Drzen Janjic, Michael Wood, Domenic Argella
Coach: Sam D'Alessandro

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Ben Panecassio, Matthew Rosier, Christian Miranda, Nicholas McInerney, Arthur Diles, Paul Downs, Paul Davies, Nicholas Chahola, Ben Gough, Patrick Cappuccio, Simon Zahra
Subs not used: James Lowery, Evan Bergeo, Oscar Narves, Hugo Rojas Rables, Ahmen Kabbara
Coach: Peter Whiteside

Bonnyrigg White Eagles	mr.mobile	5
Parramatta Eagles	BOV	3

Picture perfect: the Bonnyrigg White Eagles holds the 2003/04 NSW Grade 20 Championship Trophy high

Day of days showcase for soccer

The 2003/04 NSW Premier League Grand Final was the biggest the game has seen. With huge media coverage, hundreds of interstate fans - as well as legions of Bankstown supporters - Grand Final day hit Sydney with a bang.

Andy Papoulias (Bankstown City) – "I felt we dominated the match for eighty minutes and expressed ourselves in the best possible way. We were under a lot of pressure going into the match but the boys did very well to put all that aside and play with enthusiasm and passion.

"The missed penalty could have had a negative effect on us but we regrouped at halftime and came back strongly during the second half. Full credit to Belconnen, they played very well and made life difficult for us, but in the end I felt we deserved our victory."

Chris Tanzey (Belconnen Blue Devils) – "A penalty and an own goal is probably not the best way to end a season but full credit to Bankstown they did have the better of the game.

"We had an argument with both the penalties and with the disallowed goal where a player can be called offside when he cuts a ball back from the by-line and from that end it was somewhat disappointing.

Bankstown controlled the ball a lot better than we did in the second half, but in hindsight, if you had have said at the beginning of the season we would have made the Grand Final and won the league, I would have taken that it. Obviously to come so far is very disappointing."

TALK ABOUT A ROAD TRIP: It's about a 600 kilometre round trip from the ACT to Sydney, but that distance took on epic proporations for the players, coaches, fans and officials of Belconnen Blue Devils. To keep in a normal routine for Grand Final day, the Belconnen team bus left on match day morning for the three-hour plus trip.

Quite a way to try and pass the nerves of the big day. Imagine that the return trip might have felt like Three Thousand Kms, with the Grand Final runners-up medals not feeling much like consolation.

OUT-SHOUTED: About 200 Belconnen fans made the trip to Marconi Stadium, but their cheers were well and truly drowned out by the boisterous Bankstown City fans who made their presence felt in no uncertain terms.

The Blue Devils number one fan Alan Jackson was quick to point out that this was the first game in which Belconnen hadn't scored a goal all season. His reflection lasted a mere second when he overcome by that sinking feeling that one of his boys Lee Pietrukowski did in fact find the net, but sadly for Alan it was an own goal.

MEDIA FRENZY: The Grand Final had plenty of media coverage. Two SBS cameras and a Channel Nine crew plus the usual suspects from the soccer media. The SBS cameraman shooting the match highlights was Jorge Lazo, who is a closet Marconi fan and loves the big match atmosphere at Marconi Stadium. If ever you wonder why the highlights are a little shakey when Marconi score it's Jorge jumping up and down as he rides every bump for his favourite side.

WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Aimee Brown
PRODUCTION: Mary Quartly
EDITOR: Dylan Welch
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Kyle Patterson
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
● *All information is courtesy of SOCCER NSW*

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RETRAVISION

Retravision NSW Premier League Finals Series 2003/04

GRAND FINAL

Lions break Devils

By Greg Stock

Bankstown Lions' one-hundred percent record in Grand Finals amazingly continued as they secured their first Premier League championship with a 2-0 victory over Belconnen Blue Devils amid euphoric scenes at Marconi Stadium.

A crowd of 5,000 crammed every vantage point to watch the Lions ride a wave of fervent support to score two second half goals and run away with the match.

Without the services of a known playmaker in the side, Bankstown coach Andy Papoulias pinned his faith in a veteran and relative unknown in a bid to breakdown the tough Blue Devils defence.

Saso Boskovski in the twilight of his career and Dimitri Nicolaou, a relative unknown, performed brilliantly in the centre of the park steering their side to an historic victory.

A veteran of the clubs last two championship wins in 1993 and 1994 Boskovski was the difference between the two sides, turning back the clock in a cameo performance which earnt him Man of the Match honours.

Maligned for much of the season as 'pretenders' the Lions dominated proceedings from start to finish, not allowing their more profile opponents to get into any real rhythm.

With Matthew Borg and Sean Babic using the speed to full effect, the Blue Devils spent most of their afternoon camped inside their back third as they tried desperately to repel the Lions onslaught.

Belconnen fans were given some early joy when Daniel Macor found the net in the 18th minute but referee Nick Asargiotis was quick to disallow the goal for offside. Michael Katz burst through a couple of feeble Lions tackle to loft a short cross to Macor who met the ball unmarked at the back post and bundled the ball into the net. But their joy was short lived with Asargiotis correctly ruling that Katz was offside as he sent the final pass to Macor.

With Matthew Borg and partner Sean Babic leading the way, the Lions continued to create chances at will, and were unlucky not to be a goal in front at half-time. Saso Boskovski narrowly missed with a free kick in the 19th minute after Hoenselaars was bought down on the edge of the area by Alex Castro.

Hitting the ball with the outside of his left foot, the Lions veteran skimmed the outside of the left-hand upright with Blue Devils goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca well beaten.

Dimitri Nicolaou hit the crossbar shortly after when he attempted to lob Giannasca from close range, but the real disappointment came in the 37th minute when Babic missed with what seemed like a routine penalty. Toplica Popovich bought down Babic just inside the area as he attempted to cut back and open up the play for his partner Borg.

In a tangle of arms and legs referee Asargiotis had no hesitation in pointing to the spot, but with five thousand plus fans riding the shot, Babic sprayed the penalty into the right hand upright.

The second half opened in much the same vein as the first, the Lions dominating possession and field position but unable to put the ball in the back of the net. Hoenselaars got the closest in the 58th minute when he shed his marker on the left hand side and met a Babic ball on the run. Giannasca diving full length to his left pulling off a miraculous save which saw the ball ricochet harmlessly over the crossbar.

Ground force: Alex Castro in a sliding tackle on Bankstown's Steve Liavis

Belconnen Blue Devils	Banc Trade	0
Bankstown City Lions	Hyundai	2

Reign supreme: Bansktown City Lions, the 2003/04 NSW Premier League Champions

For all the Blue Devils hardwork and persistence they did have a couple of quality chances but sadly for their army of traveling fans they really failed to make the most of just a handful of opportunities.

Sitting back and defending their back third with numbers they pushed forward on the break allowing Macor, Ilija Prenzoski and substitute Matt Valeri the chance to run at defenders on the counter attack.

But all their hardwork was undone in the 68th minute when Lee Pietrukowski fouled Borg as he attempted to turn onto his favoured right foot just inside the penalty box, referee Asargiotis again pointing to the spot for the Lions second penalty kick of the game.

After his earlier miss, Babic gave the chance to Boskovski who calmly sent Giannasca the wrong way and slotted the ball into the bottom right hand corner.

Amid euphoric scenes the Lions first goal seemed to push them onto greater efforts, some sustained pressure on the Blue Devils back four finally saw them score a second. Pietrukowski capped an unhappy afternoon was again in the action in the 75th minute when he amazingly turned a cross from Babic into his own net.

The victory was especially poignant for Lions coach Andy Papoulias. Another relative unknown at the beginning of the year, the former United States international midfielder has turned Bankstown from one of the most under-achieving clubs in the League into one of the most entertaining with a regular diet of attacking fast paced football.

With twin strikers Sean Babic and Matthew Borg the focal point, Papoulias built the rest of the side around them, a hardworking midfield and a couple of pacy flankers in Hoenselaars and Gomez gave the side an attacking feel which took all before them in the semi-final series.

Despite the absence of a recognized playmaker, Papoulias used Boskovski and Nicolaou to great effect, the trophy a fitting reward for a side that was arguably the most entertaining in the League.

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS 0
BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 2
(Z.Babic pen, L.Pietrukowski og)
at Marconi Stadium, Bossley Park
Crowd approx 5000

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS: Zlatko Josevski, Paul Wearne, Mathew Pressello (Anthony Doumanis), Richard Luksic, Saso Boskovski, Dimitri Nicolaou, Mathew Borg (Steve Liavas), Robbie Gomez, Marc Hoenselaars (Alex Trpkoski), Sasha Trajcevski, Sean Babic
Coach: Andy Papoulias

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS: Anthony Giannasca, Adrian Dowling, Lee Pietrukowski, Ilija Prenzoski (Matt Valeri), Elliot Zwangobani, Daniel Macor, Nic Purdue, Michael Katz, Alex Castro, Toplica Popovich (Adam Williams), Anthony Galliozzi
Coach: Chris Tanzey

Referee: Nick Asargiotis
Assistant Referees: Sam D'Imperio and Atila Stibinger
Fourth Official: Jonathan Streater

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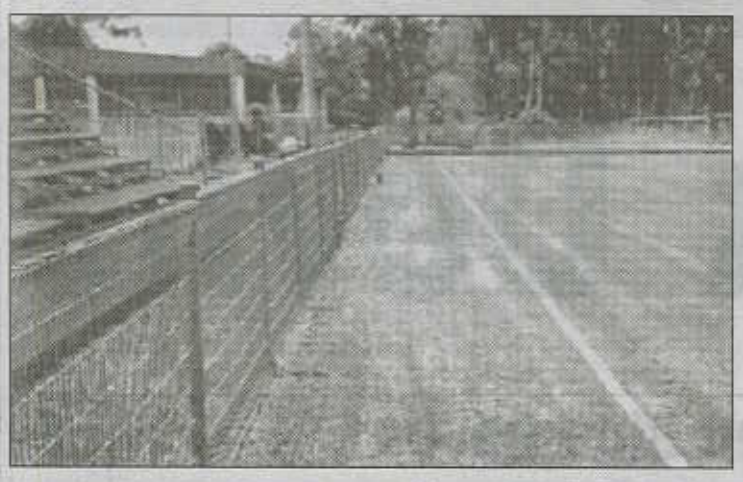
FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



Patikas still King of the Hill

Dulwich Hill football director George Andrade has ended speculation on the coaching future of Jimmy Patikas, confirming the former Socceroo will remain in charge at the club for the rest of the season.

"The club has every faith in Jimmy, and he will be in charge until the end of the season," said Andrade to FTS last week.

"Our start to the season was slow, but what people don't realise is that we had a ton of injuries and it really took it's toll on the first grade roster. We had to draft in untried youngsters and while we did get some results, we decided that we needed to go to plan B, which was to recruit some quality first grade standard players to help improve our results. The past few weeks have shown that things are on the improve and as Football Director I have every faith that Jimmy can turn our season around."

Patikas also described the speculation surrounding his tenure as premature, but preferred to concentrate on the positives rather than the negatives.

"I have been somewhat disappointed with the way we have performed but we did have problems with injuries and had some players in the squad who quite simply didn't measure up. We had to make some hard decisions, and bring in some new players, but our results have improved and still believe we are capable to moving up the table.

"We still have the best part of the second round to go so a semi-final spot could well be a possibility if we continue to play good football."

FTS has also heard rumors that former Parramatta Power striker John Buonavoglia has been seen down at Dulwich Hill training and could join the club as early as this week.

Bombs away: Stuart Young of St George previewed his new shooting style during the Preliminary Final against the Belconnen Blue Devils

Vic ain't sick

Two weeks back, FTS reported on the plight of Sutherland coach Vic Ellul. We are now pleased to note that Vic has made a speedy recovery from the injury that saw him carted to hospital by ambulance during the Dulwich Hill match at Seymour Shaw Park, and is back on full duties. "It's a torn calf muscle which gave me a blood clot," said Ellul when FTS caught up with him during the week.

"The clot obviously moved around my body and made me faint, but the doctors tell me I am fine and won't have any lasting problems. I just have to stay on crutches for another few weeks to help the calf muscle repair and hopefully I'll be back fighting fit. I just have to make sure I keep a lid on things and don't jump around when we score a goal!"

Ahh, the good 'ol days

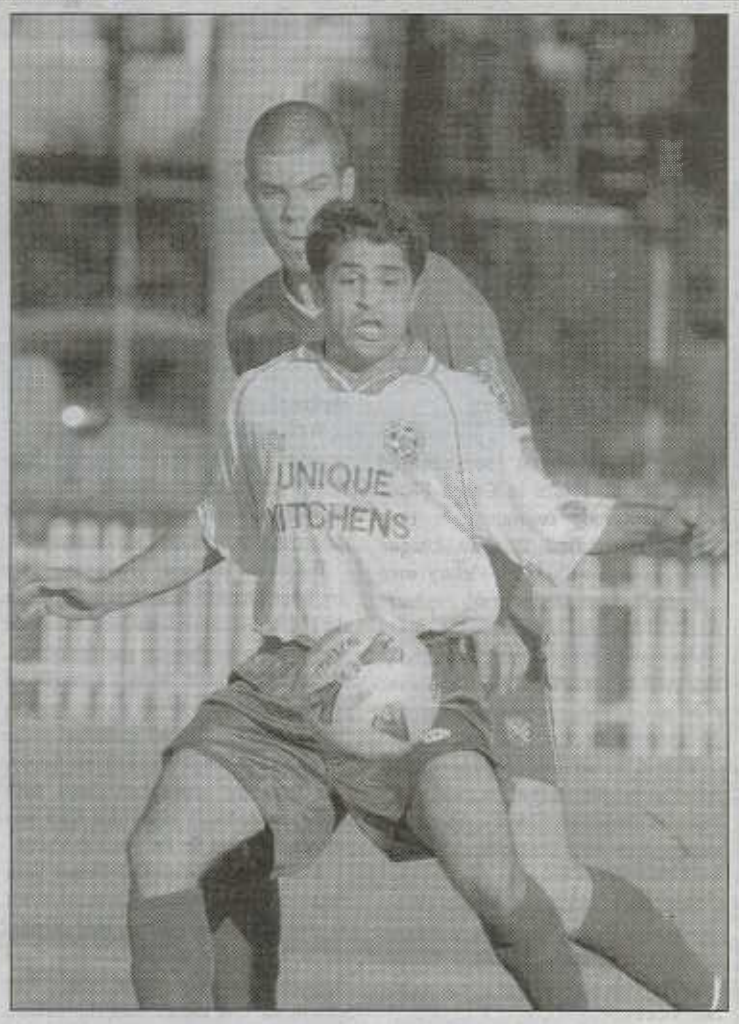
Our story last week looking back on previous Grand Finals, remembering many of the high points of state league seasons past, certainly hit a note with fans. FTS received a number of positive emails and phonecalls, the least of which was a few hardy Manly-Warringah Dolphins fans who wanted to relive their 1995 triumph. The win of course launched the coaching career of former Socceroo John Kosmina who went onto coach National League sides Newcastle Breakers, Brisbane Strikers and, more recently, Adelaide United. The side featured such talents as Ross Etherington, Craig Sharpley, Dave Segreto and last but by no means least, current Manly player/coach Phil Moss!

Bobo not clowning

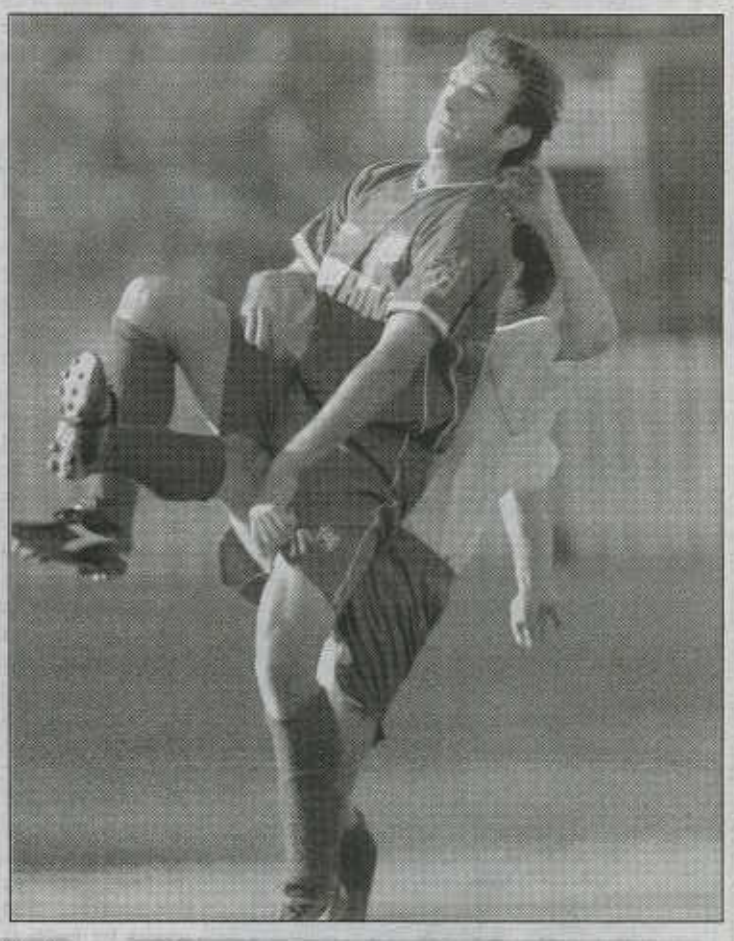
Fairfield Bulls coach Hugh McCrory has confirmed that star striker Nenos Bobo could be sidelined for the remainder of the season with the recurrence of a knee problem he first sustained three years ago when at AC United.

"Nenos is training with us but I don't expect to see him on the park again this year," said McCrory. "His knee is still too painful for him to run flat out or change direction so I've advised him to seek treatment and we'll take it from there."

Possessed with a blinding turn of speed, Bobo had scored six goals in seven games till the knee injury saw him sidelined some three weeks ago.



Ouch: Players from the NSW Winter Super League put it all on the line over the week, with bruised pride the least of their worries



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How good are our juniors?

How good are Australia's junior players compared with the rest of the world? Soon the answer to that question will be based on scientific research and meticulous assessment.

The Coaching and Development Department of Soccer NSW is about to publish the results of testing on 600 elite junior players.

"This is the most thorough appraisal that we've ever had in elite development anywhere in Australia," said Branko Culina, Technical Director of Soccer NSW.

"Once the data is collated, we will be able to provide a player and his or her coach with a guide to where they currently stand in relation to peers and world benchmarks."

The Psychomotor Testing Program was conducted at Valentine Sports Park over the weekend of 29 & 30 May. All players in the Regional Excellence Program were involved – 450 boys and 150 girls from eleven to 14 years of age.

Each player was tested in eight areas, some involving purely physical abilities, others testing ball skill and decision-making. This included sprinting, dribbling, jumping, and a variety of kicking and passing tests.

Each player did each test three times in 15 minutes, with two hours of intensive work over the day.

"The NSW players will be measured against players of the same age from all over Australia and the world, using FIFA-approved benchmarks gathered over the past 20 years," said Culina.

On top of the objective testing in eight categories, when every result was timed, measured or scored, the player underwent 19 other subjective tests.

These technical and tactical tests were assessed by coaches. Among the categories were dribbling skill, receiving, tackling, quality of passing short and long, heading, deceptive running, situational intelligence, mobility, penetration, width & depth, switch of play, balance, pressing the opponent, pressing the ball, zonal play and combined zonal play, effort, endurance and, last but not least, conduct.

A second round of testing will be conducted later this year.

"We will be able to discuss with the individual player exactly where they need to improve, but more importantly how they can improve, using the test results," he said.

"This work has the potential to change what is coached and how. It will give a better idea to coaches in what to look for in a player of a certain age.

"And the results will push the coaches as well, making them reassess they way they go about their work."

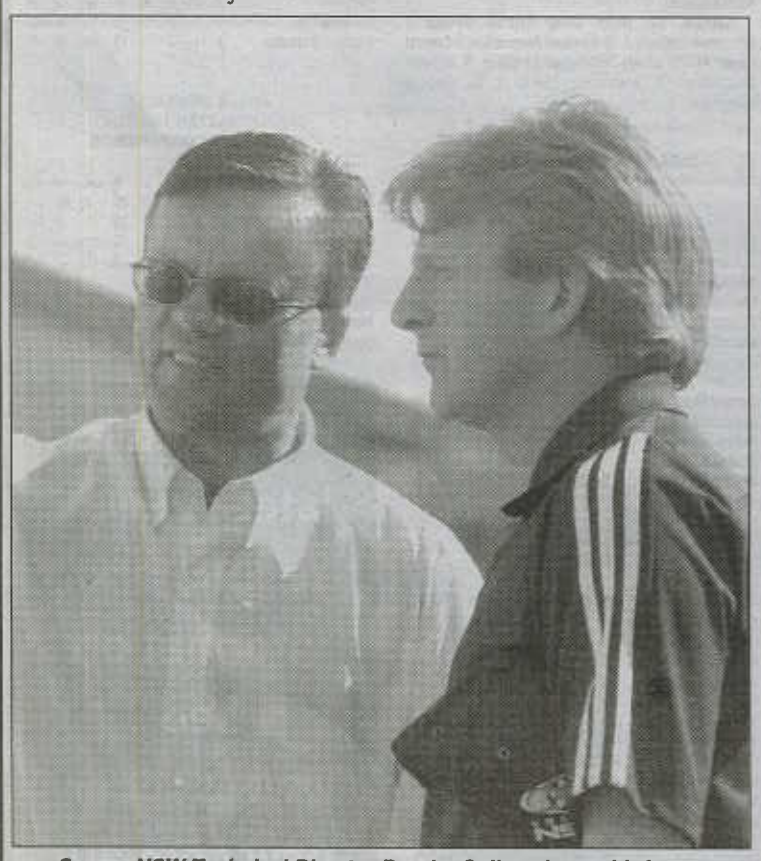
The Coaching and Development Department has moved further into the high-tech era, by acquiring the Sportscode 'Game Breaker' software to assist individual and team analysis, and the Cronis athlete management system, to help track progress of athlete throughout involvement in the elite development system.

"The most exciting thing is to help players know exactly where they stand," he said.

"It will be a tremendous guide to help coaches know whether they are doing the correct things to improve players."

The massive testing program used more than 60 coaches and volunteers, all the new of progress of NSW Soccer.

Mums, dads and happy kids, surround Coerver Coaching director Paul Bentvelsen



Soccer NSW Technical Director Branko Culina chats with former Southampton manager Gordon Strachan, during his recent visit to Valentine Sports Park.

New look State junior titles

The NSW State junior titles will have a new look for 2004 after a major review by Soccer NSW.

Under the changes, there will now be ten regional representative teams in the State titles; six Sydney metropolitan teams and three country teams, plus the Northern NSW Soccer Federation.

The review made changes to the catchment areas of some regions. For example, Illawarra players will join Sutherland players in a Metropolitan Far South team.

Last year was the first time the State was divided into regions. There were a total of eight teams, with four from Sydney (north, south, east and west) and four from the country (southern, western, Riverina and Central Coast)

That system replaced the long-time format, which gave the top four youth teams from each age group in the former NSW Soccer Federation Youth League passage to the finals along with four country teams.

The 2004 State titles will be played throughout NSW from October 4 to 8. Coordinators will be appointed to each Region responsible for the organising and control of all activities in line with rules and policies set down by Soccer NSW.

The 2004 NSW State junior titles: new format, same competitive spirit

NSW State Juniors

Metropolitan North - Manly Warringah, Gladesville Hornsby, Ku-Ring-Gai. Metropolitan South - Bankstown, Southern Districts, Macarthur Metropolitan East - St. George, Canterbury, Eastern Suburbs Metropolitan West - Blacktown, Nepean, Granville Metropolitan Far North - Central Coast Metropolitan Far South - Illawarra, Sutherland

Country Riverina - Albury, Griffith, Sth West Slopes, Wagga Country Southern - Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Highlands, Far South Coast, Southern Tablelands

Country Western - Dubbo, Orange, Lachlan, Mitchell, Western Plains. Northern Federation - Northern NSW Soccer Federation

October titles venues:

Boys
Under 11 Mudgee
Under 12 Batemans Bay
Under 13 Parkes
Under 14 Wagga
Under 15 Valentine Park

Girls
Under 12 South Nowra
Under 14 South Nowra
Under 16 South Nowra

Each Region will field a team in each age group made up of participants residing within the boundaries of that Region. Each Region will appoint team managers. The coaches are appointed by Soccer NSW Coaching Division.

Selection trials for each age will be advised by the Soccer NSW.

While the U11,12,13,14,12G & 14G will be playing in the Regional Excellence program, the U15 Boys together with the U16 Girls trials and selection will be the responsibility of the Regional coordinators.

The new process for administering the State Titles entries and player selection across all Regions will ensure that the State Titles this year will produce a truly elite competition in all age groups.

SOCCER NSW

www.soccernsw.com.au

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE - ROUND 16:

GRADE 13: Sydney United 5 Macarthur Rams 2, Marconi Stallions 9 Newcastle United 0, Parramatta Eagles 0 Wollongong Wolves 1, Sydney Olympic 0 Bankstown City Cubs 2, Hajduk Wanderers UTD 0 Blacktown City Demons 2, Gladesville Spirit SC 0 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 2, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Central Coast FC 2.

GRADE 14: Sydney United 2 Macarthur Rams 1, Marconi Stallions 7 Newcastle United 1, Parramatta Eagles 1 Wollongong Wolves 0, Sydney Olympic 2 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Hajduk Wanderers UTD 0 Blacktown City Demons 0, Gladesville Spirit SC 1 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 5 Central Coast FC 0.

GRADE 15: Sydney United 4 Macarthur Rams 0, Marconi Stallions 3 Newcastle United 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 Wollongong Wolves 2, Sydney Olympic 4 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Hajduk Wanderers UTD 0 Blacktown City Demons 7, Gladesville Spirit SC 3 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Central Coast FC 0.

GRADE 16: Sydney United 1 Macarthur Rams 0, Marconi Stallions 0 Newcastle United 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 Wollongong Wolves 0, Sydney Olympic 1 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Hajduk Wanderers UTD 1 Blacktown City Demons 0, Gladesville Spirit SC 0 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Central Coast FC 0.

GRADE 18: Sydney United 0 Macarthur Rams 1, Marconi Stallions 1 Newcastle United 2, Parramatta Eagles 0 Wollongong Wolves 1, Sydney Olympic 1 Bankstown City Cubs 4, Hajduk Wanderers UTD 0 Blacktown City Demons 0, Gladesville Spirit SC 4 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 3 Central Coast FC 0.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown City	16	12	1	3	45	12	33	37
Sydney United	16	11	2	3	41	18	23	35
Marconi Stallions	16	10	2	4	41	17	24	32
Bankstown City Cubs	16	9	3	4	26	15	11	30
Parramatta Eagles	16	8	5	3	27	9	18	29
Hajduk Wanderers	16	9	2	5	20	15	5	29
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	16	8	3	5	21	16	5	27
Gladesville Spirit SC	16	8	1	7	33	31	2	25
Sydney Olympic	16	5	2	9	14	23	-9	17
Wollongong Wolves	16	3	5	8	15	26	-11	14
Central Coast Utd	16	4	2	10	10	24	-14	14
Newcastle United FC	16	3	5	8	18	35	-17	14
Sutherland Shire	16	2	4	10	12	38	-26	10
Macarthur Rams	16	1	1	14	10	54	-44	4

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	16	11	4	1	52	11	41	37
Blacktown City	16	11	3	2	36	10	26	36
Parramatta Eagles	16	11	3	2	26	6	20	36
Gladesville Spirit SC	16	9	5	2	19	9	10	32
Wollongong Wolves	16	9	1	6	28	19	9	28
Sydney Olympic	16	7	5	4	20	9	11	26
Newcastle United FC	16	6	5	5	22	25	-3	23
Bankstown City Cubs	16	6	4	6	22	20	2	22
Sutherland Shire	16	5	4	7	28	19	9	19
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	16	3	5	8	14	28	-14	14
Hajduk Wanderers	16	2	7	7	17	26	-9	13
Sydney United	16	4	1	11	13	32	-19	13
Macarthur Rams	16	2	3	11	14	46	-32	9
Central Coast Utd	16	0	2	14	7	58	-51	2

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	16	12	2	2	27	9	18	38
Parramatta Eagles	16	11	3	2	28	6	22	36
Sydney Olympic	16	11	2	3	35	16	19	35
Blacktown City	16	10	2	4	39	18	21	32
Gladesville Spirit SC	16	8	5	3	24	11	13	29
Central Coast Utd	16	7	4	5	18	21	-3	25
Newcastle United FC	16	7	2	7	27	21	6	23
Macarthur Rams	16	5	3	8	18	36	-18	18
Sydney United	15	5	2	8	20	19	1	17
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	16	3	7	6	10	16	-6	16
Bankstown City Cubs	15	4	4	7	8	16	-8	16
Wollongong Wolves	16	1	7	8	14	28	-14	10
Sutherland Shire	16	1	6	9	13	24	-11	9
Hajduk Wanderers	16	1	1	14	7	47	-40	4

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Parramatta Eagles	16	12	2	2	29	10	19	38
Sydney Olympic	16	9	3	4	24	11	13	30
Sydney United	16	9	2	5	23	18	5	29
Marconi Stallions	16	7	5	4	20	13	7	26
Bankstown City Cubs	16	7	4	5	22	13	9	25
Gladesville Spirit SC	16	6	6	4	16	13	3	24
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	16	7	3	6	18	19	-1	24
Sutherland Shire	16	7	1	8	21	21	0	22
Blacktown City	16	5	6	5	16	15	1	21
Newcastle United FC	16	5	6	5	21	23	-2	21
Wollongong Wolves	16	4	6	6	18	19	-1	18
Macarthur Rams	16	3	5	8	18	24	-6	14
Hajduk Wanderers	16	2	3	11	9	35	-26	9
Central Coast United	16	0	6	10	10	31	-21	6

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	16	10	3	3	33	17	16	33
Wollongong Wolves	16	10	2	4	33	19	14	32
Sydney Olympic	16	9	2	5	43	32	11	29
Blacktown City	16	9	2	5	24	14	10	29
Gladesville Spirit SC	16	9	2	5	28	21	7	29
Sutherland Shire	16	8	3	5	31	20	11	27
Parramatta Eagles	16	7	4	5	29	23	6	25
Hajduk Wanderers	16	6	3	7	23	27	-4	21
Macarthur Rams	16	6	2	8	26	37	-11	20
Sydney United	16	5	4	7	24	22	2	19
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	16	5	4	7	21	36	-15	19
Newcastle United FC	15	4	1	10	20	35	-15	13
Bankstown City Cubs	16	3	3	10	16	32	-16	12
Central Coast United	15	1	3	11	16	32	-16	6

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Marconi Stallions	80	50	16	14	173	67	106	166
Parramatta Eagles	80	49	17	14	139	54	85	164
Blacktown City	80	47	14	19	160	69	91	155
Gladesville Spirit SC	80	40	19	21	120	85	35	139
Sydney Olympic	80	41	14	25	136	91	45	137
Sydney United	79	34	11	34	121	109	12	113
Bankstown City	79	29	18	32	94	96	-2	105
Wollongong Wolves	80	27	21	32	108	111	-3	102
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	80	26	22	32	84	115	-31	100
Newcastle United FC	79	25	19	35	108	139	-31	94
Sutherland Shire	80	23	18	39	105	122	-17	87
Hajduk Wanderers	80	20	16	44	76	150	-74	76
Macarthur Rams	80	17	14	49	86	197	-111	65
Central Coast Utd	79	12	17	50	61	166	-105	53

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 14:

GRADE 13: St George 1 Fairfield Bulls 2, Fraser Park - Canterbury 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2, Northern Tigers 0 Penrith Nepean United 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Hills United 0, Granville Rage 0 Parramatta Star 2.

GRADE 14: St George 2 Fairfield Bulls 0, Fraser Park - Canterbury 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Northern Tigers 0 Penrith Nepean United 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Hills United 0, Granville Rage 1 Parramatta Star 0.

GRADE 15: St George 5 Fairfield Bulls 0, Fraser Park - Canterbury 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4, Northern Tigers 2 Penrith Nepean United 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Hills United 1, Granville Rage 1 Parramatta Star 3.

GRADE 16: St George 2 Fairfield Bulls 0, Fraser Park - Canterbury 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Northern Tigers 0 Penrith Nepean United 2, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Hills United 0, Granville Rage 0 Parramatta Star 2.

GRADE 18: St George 0 Fairfield Bulls 3, Fraser Park - Canterbury 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2, Northern Tigers 0 Penrith Nepean United 2, Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Hills United 1, Granville Rage 0 Parramatta Star 4.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Manly Warringah	14	13	0	1	37	7	30	39
Parramatta Star	14	9	3	2	29	13	16	30
Bonnyrigg WE	14	8	3	3	20	10	10	27
Penrith Nepean Utd	14	7	4	3	17	11	6	25
St George	14	8	0	6	22	17	5	24
Southern Branch	14	6	3	5	22	23	-1	21
Granville Rage	14	5	5	4	15	12	3	20
Fraser Pk - C'bury	14	4	3	7	21	24	-3	15
Northern Tigers	14	4	0	10	12	24	-12	12
Hills United Brumbies	14	3	2	9	15	24	-9	11
Schofield Scorpions	14	3	2	9	12	23	-11	11
Fairfield Bulls	14	1	1	12	8	42	-34	4

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
St George	14	10	3	1	33	9	24	33
Manly Warringah	14	10	1	3	24	11	13	31
Schofield Scorpions	14	8	3	3	23	15	8	27
Bonnyrigg WE	14	7	5	2	21	10	11	26
Penrith Nepean Utd	14	7	5	2	18	8	10	26
Granville Rage	14	5	2	7	13	15	-2	17
Fairfield Bulls	14	3	5	6	12	16	-4	14
Northern Tigers	14	3	5	6	15	24	-9	14
Southern Branch	14	2	7	5	13	21	-8	13
Fraser Pk - C'bury	14	2	6	6	8	22	-14	12
Hills United Brumbies	14	3	2	9	15	21	-6	11
Parramatta Star	14	0	4	10	9	32	-23	4

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Northern Tigers	14	11	2	1	24	10	14	35
Bonnyrigg WE	14	10	1	3	34	7	27	31
Schofield Scorpions	14	10	1	3	29	12	17	31
St George	14	9	1	4	28	15	13	28
Penrith Nepean Utd	14	8	2	4	28	16	12	26
Southern Branch	14	8	0	6	27	21	6	24
Hills United Brumbies	14	6	2	6	21	22	-1	20
Parramatta Star	14	4	3	7	18	28	-10	15
Fraser Pk - C'bury	14	3	3	8	13	24	-11	12
Granville Rage	14	3	1	10	15	26	-11	10
Manly Warringah	14	3	0	11	10	30	-20	9
Fairfield Bulls	14	1	0	13	11	47	-36	3

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Manly Warringah	14	11	0	3	23	6	17	33
St George	14	10	2	2	30	9	21	32
Penrith Nepean Utd	14	7	3	4	24	14	10	24
Parramatta Star	14	6	4	4	21	16	5	22
Bonnyrigg WE	14	6	4	4	22	19	3	22
Schofield Scorpions	14	6	2	6	22	24	-2	20
Fairfield Bulls	14	5	4	5	19	13	6	19
Hills United Brumbies	14	5	1	8	20	28	-8	16
Granville Rage	14	5	1	8	17	25	-8	16
Northern Tigers	14	3	3	8	13	25	-12	12
Fraser Pk – C'bury	14	3	3	8	9	25	-16	12
Southern Branch	14	2	3	9	14	30	-16	9

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Parramatta Star	14	11	1	2	51	15	36	34
Manly Warringah	14	8	5	1	35	14	21	29
Fairfield Bulls	14	7	5	2	31	16	15	26
Northern Tigers	14	7	1	6	20	19	1	22
Schofield Scorpions	14	6	3	5	31	30	1	21
Southern Branch	14	5	4	5	22	24	-2	19
St George	14	5	4	5	20	30	-10	19
Penrith Nepean Utd	14	6	0	8	24	25	-1	18
Hills United Brumbies	14	5	3	6	21	22	-1	18
Bonnyrigg WE	14	5	2	7	28	35	-7	17
Fraser Pk – C'bury	14	2	4	8	19	32	-13	10
Granville Rage	14	0	2	12	12	52	-40	2

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Manly Warringah	70	45	6	19	129	68	61	141
St George	70	42	10	18	133	80	53	136
Bonnyrigg WE	70	36	15	19	125	81	44	123
Penrith Nepean Utd	70	35	14	21	111	74	37	119
Schofield Scorpions	70	33	11	26	117	104	13	110
Parramatta Star	70	30	15	25	128	104	24	105
Northern Tigers	70	28	11	31	84	102	-18	95
Southern Branch	70	23	17	30	98	119	-21	86
Hills United Brumbies	70	22	10	38	92	117	-25	76
Fairfield Bulls	70	17	15	38	81	134	-53	66
Granville Rage	70	18	11	41	72	130	-58	65
Fraser Pk – C'bury	70	14	19	37	70	127	-57	61

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 14:

GRADE 13: Dulwich Hill 0 Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 0, Hurstville City Minotaurs 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2, Ryde City 2 Camden Tigers 1, Wollongong United 8 Stanmore Hawks 0, Belmore Hercules 2 Rockdale City Suns 0.

GRADE 14: Dulwich Hill 2 Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 0, Hurstville City Minotaurs 2 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3, Ryde City 5 Camden Tigers 3, Wollongong United 6 Stanmore Hawks 0, Belmore Hercules 1 Rockdale City Suns 0.

GRADE 15: Dulwich Hill 1 Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 1, Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0, Ryde City 2 Camden Tigers 0, Wollongong United 5 Stanmore Hawks 0, Belmore Hercules 1 Rockdale City Suns 1.

GRADE 16: Dulwich Hill 4 Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 1, Hurstville City Minotaurs 2 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Ryde City 2 Camden Tigers 2, Wollongong United 1 Stanmore Hawks 1, Belmore Hercules 2 Rockdale City Suns 0.

GRADE 18: Dulwich Hill 5 Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 1, Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2, Ryde City 2 Camden Tigers 2, Wollongong United 0 Stanmore Hawks 4, Belmore Hercules 1 Rockdale City Suns 4.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Wollongong United	13	11	1	1	40	3	37	34
Belmore Hercules	13	7	3	3	25	15	10	24
Camden Tigers	13	6	3	4	38	12	25	21
Mt Druitt Town Ran	12	6	3	3	14	13	1	21
SU Eastern Lions	13	5	5	3	20	16	4	20
Dulwich Hill	12	5	3	4	23	18	5	18
Bathurst '75/Western	11	5	2	4	18	17	1	17
Ryde City	12	5	1	6	15	31	-16	16
Rockdale City Suns	13	3	3	7	8	16	-8	12
Hurstville City Min	13	3	2	8	15	28	-13	11
Stanmore Hawks	13	0	0	13	9	56	-47	0

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Belmore Hercules	13	11	1	1	25	3	22	34
Bathurst '75/Western	11	10	1	0	27	5	22	31
Mt Druitt Town Ran	12	8	2	2	20	8	12	26
Ryde City	12	5	2	5	17	17	0	17
Camden Tigers	12	5	1	6	22	20	2	16
Hurstville City Min	12	4	3	5	10	14	-4	15
Rockdale City Suns	13	3	5	5	14	14	0	14
Dulwich Hill	12	4	2	6	12	16	-4	14
SU Eastern Lions	13	4	2	7	12	19	-7	14
Wollongong United	13	3	2	8	19	22	-3	11
Stanmore Hawks	13	0	1	12	7	47	-40	1

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
SU Eastern Lions	13	10	1	2	27	7	20	31
Ryde City	12	9	2	1	26	10	16	29
Wollongong United	13	7	2	4	35	20	15	23
Hurstville City Mino	12	6	2	4	22	14	8	20
Dulwich Hill	12	5	5	2	14	10	4	20
Rockdale City Suns	13	5	4	4	18	17	1	19
Bathurst '75/Western	11	4	3	4	21	14	7	15
Camden Tigers	12	5	0	7	19	20	-1	15
Belmore Hercules	13	4	2	7	11	29	-18	14
Mt Druitt Town Ran	12	2	0	10	10	19	-9	6
Stanmore Hawks	13	0	1	12	6	49	-43	1

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Hurstville City Min	12	9	2	1	23	10	13	29
Dulwich Hill	12	8	1	3	35	16	19	25
Camden Tigers	11	6	5	0	22	10	12	23
Wollongong United	13	6	5	2	19	11	8	23
Belmore Hercules	13	6	2	5	19	15	4	20
Bathurst '75/Western	11	5	3	3	20	12	8	18
Rockdale City Suns	12	5	2	5	16	19	-3	17
Mt Druitt Town Ran	12	4	1	7	12	15	-3	13
Ryde City	12	2	3	7	15	24	-9	9
Stanmore Hawks	13	1	3	9	10	33	-23	6
SU Eastern Lions	13	1	1	11	13	39	-26	4

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Camden Tigers	12	9	1	2	49	12	37	28
Ryde City	12	8	2	2	40	12	28	26
Dulwich Hill	12	8	2	2	39	16	23	26
Stanmore Hawks	13	7	2	4	40	17	23	23
Hurstville City Min	12	7	1	4	36	15	21	22
Bathurst '75/Western	11	6	3	2	23	17	6	21
Mt Druitt Town Ran	12	4	3	5	20	23	-3	15
SU Eastern Lions	13	4	0	9	25	34	-9	12
Rockdale City Suns	13	3	2	8	49	38	11	11
Belmore Hercules	13	3	2	8	24	41	-17	11
Wollongong United	13	0	0	13	6	126	-120	0

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Bathurst '75/Western	55	30	12	13	109	65	44	102
Camden Tigers	60	31	10	19	150	74	76	103
Dulwich Hill	60	30	13	17	123	76	47	103
Ryde City	60	29	10	21	113	94	19	97
Hurstville City Min	61	29	10	22	106	81	25	97
Belmore Hercules	65	31	10	24	104	103	1	103
Wollongong United	65	27	10	28	119	182	-63	91
Mt Druitt Town Ran	60	24	9	27	76	78	-2	81
SU Eastern Lions	65	24	9	32	97	115	-18	81
Rockdale City Suns	64	19	16	29	105	104	1	73
Stanmore Hawks	65	8	7	50	72	202	-130	31

S.S.I. GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE - ROUND 14:

GRADE 12: North West Sydney Koalas 4 Blacktown Districts 0, Sutherland Association 2 Central Coast FC 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Nepean Association 1, Macarthur Rams 1 St George Association 1.

GRADE 14: North West Sydney Koalas 3 Blacktown Districts 0, Sutherland Association 1 Central Coast FC 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Nepean Association 3, Macarthur Rams 2 St George Association 5.

GRADE 16: North West Sydney Koalas 3 Blacktown Districts 1, Sutherland Association 2 Central Coast FC 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Nepean Association 1, Macarthur Rams 2 St George Association 1.

S.S.I. GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Manly Warringah	13	11	1	1	33	5	28	34
Sutherland Assoc	13	11	0	2	41	8	33	33
Nepean Association	13	10	2	1	44	16	28	32
NW Sydney Koalas	13	10	1	2	43	13	30	31
St George Assoc	13	6	3	4	18	13	5	21
Macarthur Rams	13	5	4	4	21	19	2	19
Blacktown Assoc	13	4	3	6	19	26	-7	15
UNSW	12	4	1	7	16	25	-9	13
Central Coast United	13	3	1	9	13	20	-7	10
Marconi Stallions	13	2	4	7	18	33	-15	10
Northern Tigers	12	2	3	7	12	33	-21	9
Southern Branch	13	1	3	9	6	26	-20	6
Wollongong Wolves	12	0	2	10	11	58	-47	2

S.S.I. GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
St George Assoc	13	11	2	0	52	10	42	35
NW Sydney Koalas	13	9	3	1	33	8	25	30
Manly Warringah	13	9	3	1	27	6	21	30
Macarthur Rams	13	9	0	4	32	16	16	27
Nepean Association	13	8	2	3	33	11	22	26
Sutherland Assoc	13	7	3	3	20	5	15	24
Southern Branch	13	6	1	6	18	23	-5	19
Central Coast United	13	4	3	6	21	22	-1	15
Northern Tigers	12	2	2	8	5	29	-24	8
Marconi Stallions	13	1	4	8	7	33	-26	7
Wollongong Wolves	12	1	2	9	2	21	-19	5
Blacktown Assoc	13	1	2	10	2	34	-32	5
UNSW	12	0	3	9	4	38	-34	3

S.S.I. GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Southern Branch	13	12	0	1	63	6	57	36
NW Sydney Koalas	13	10	2	1	58	16	42	32
Macarthur Rams	13	10	1	2	38	14	24	31
Manly Warringah	13	9	2	2	51	18	33	29
Sutherland Assoc	13	8	2	3	24	12	12	26
Nepean Association	13	8	1	4	51	21	30	25
Central Coast United	13	4	3	6	20	22	-2	15
Blacktown Assoc	13	5	0	8	26	32	-6	15
St George Assoc	13	4	0	9	21	35	-14	12
Marconi Stallions	13	3	1	9	16	34	-18	10
Wollongong Wolves	12	2	1	9	12	46	-34	7
Northern Tigers	12	1	1	10	5	50	-45	4
UNSW	12	0	0	12	4	83	-79	0

attack METROPOLITAN LEAGUE ROUND 8:

GRADE 11: Canterbury 2 Eastern Suburbs 0, Central Coast 0 Manly Warringah 1, Nepean 1 Gladesville Horsby 1, Granville 1 Ku-ring-gai 0, Bankstown 1 Southern Districts 2, Blacktown 5 Southern Branch 0, Illawarra 1 Sutherland 0, St George 2 Macarthur 0.

GRADE 12: Canterbury 2 Eastern Suburbs 0, Central Coast 1 Manly Warringah 1, Nepean 0 Gladesville Hornsby 1, Granville 1 Ku-ringa-gai 0, Bankstown 1 Southern Districts 0, Blacktown 3 Southern Branch 0, Illawarra 1 Sutherland 2, St George 2 Macarthur 0.

attack UNDER 11 METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTHERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Nepean	9	6	1	2	18	10	8	19
Granville	9	5	3	1	16	8	8	18
Canterbury	9	5	2	2	14	10	4	17
Gladesville-Hornsby	9	3	5	1	14	13	1	14
Manly-Warringah	9	4	1	4	16	13	3	13
Central Coast	9	3	0	6	11	16	-5	9
Ku-Ring-Gai	9	1	4	4	7	11	-4	7
Eastern Suburbs	9	0	2	7	6	21	-15	2

attack UNDER 11 METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Sutherland	9	7	0	2	17	10	7	21
Southern Districts	9	6	2	1	20	6	14	20
Blacktown	9	6	1	2	25	6	19	19
Illawarra	8	5	1	2	15	9	6	16
St George	9	4	1	4	12	11	1	13
Macarthur	9	2	1	6	6	14	-8	7
Southern Branch	9	1	1	7	5	25	-20	4
Bankstown	8	0	1	7	2	21	-19	1

attack UNDER 12 METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTHERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Gladesville-Hornsby	9	8	1	0	19	2	17	25
Manly-Warringah	9	3	5	1	15	10	5	14
Central Coast	9	3	4	2	13	14	-1	13
Canterbury	9	4	1	4	8	12	-4	13
Nepean	9	2	3	4	7	6	1	9
Granville	9	2	3	4	6	12	-6	9
Ku-Ring-Gai	9	2	2	5	5	11	-6	8
Eastern Suburbs	9	1	3	5	13	19	-6	6

attack UNDER 12 METROPLITAN LEAGUE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown	9	8	1	0	30	2	28	25
Bankstown	8	5	2	1	13	5	8	17
St George	9	4	1	4	10	11	-1	13
Sutherland	9	3	3	3	8	10	-2	12
Macarthur	9	3	1	5	7	11	-4	10
Southern Districts	9	2	4	3	4	11	-7	10
Illawarra	8	3	0	5	11	14	-3	9
Southern Branch	9	1	0	8	4	23	-19	3

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Rams keep Tigers at bay

By Paul Goodwin

Northern Tigers 2
Macarthur Rams 2

With their two recent signings keeping the Tigers at bay, Macarthur Rams belied their recent form slump to snatch a well deserved draw 2-2 against Northern Tigers at Parklands Oval on Sunday

Both Macarthur goals were crackers. The first, from ex-Parramatta Power player Matt Thompson, was a superb volley at the near post, following a wonderful cross from the right by Jeff Suzor and the equaliser from an equally well directed cross from the same by line by Ben Evans.

However the Rams' defenders must not be forgotten, as it was a critical tackle on Tigers' striker, Adam Foti, inside the box in the 81st that led to the latter goal for the visitors.

This time it was substitute and new signing, Dowling, whose spectacular volley brought the house down.

Tigers' front runner, Adam Foti, looked certain to score as he got in behind the defence but, with captain Wes Horne also in attendance, Foti was dispossessed by a clean-as-a-whistle tackle from Adel Eljamal.

Eljamal then sent the ball forwards sharply, to Paul Wither who found Ben Evans on the right. Getting past the last defender proved a task within the capabilities of Evans and the goal was scored from his eventual fine cross.

From one of those, around the edge of the box, the home side was able to get back the lead they had surrendered to that goal from Thompson in the 33rd minute.

Erik Paartalu managed to drive the ball low and thanks to a deflection, possibly, Rams' keeper was deceived and unable to stop its passage over the line.

Foti had been brought down on the edge of the box to earn the free kick which many felt was awarded in controversial circumstances.

Long balls were being played to feet and the speed of the Tigers' front runners while the wing play from Richard Harrison and Evans was always proving a handful for the well-drilled home defence.

After both sides had seen some chances missed narrowly the Tigers opened the scoring from a corner in the 30th.

Paartalu sent the ball deep from the right and it reached Hunter out wide. Hunter's ball back in, to the near post, was met nicely by Jason Mesiti, with the keeper committed and as the ball spun towards goal three home strikers were there to help it on its way should the ball not cross the line unaided.

Then, with the Tigers perhaps still celebrating their good fortune, the Rams came storming back.

Suzor, a veteran performer with years of experience to call on, made a very big run on the right, with Evans in support and got over a cross that eluded all but Thompson, who was making only his second appearance in the Maroon and Silver of the Rams.

Thompson almost got a second in the dying stages of the first half when Harrison's deep cross from the left found his foot again but this time Crews got in the way well.

The Northern Tigers enjoyed their best period of the game midway through the second half, not long after scoring their second and hitting the front again.

Having scored from the Paartalu free kick, in the 57th, they nearly got a third in the 65th, when Marcus Frost's header after a deep, lifted through pass, was just over the bar, while three minutes later Brad Wither's free kick just went over by a similar margin at the other end for the Rams.

In the 80th Mesiti found Foti with a nicely weighted through pass and the latter shook off three defenders, turned twice inside the area and smashed the ball just wide with his left foot. It was not long after this that the same player raced into the box again and looked set to score only for Eljamal to produce the tackle of the game.

He and his defensive partner, Wes Horne, were outstanding in a visiting team that looked the goods for most of the 90 minutes. For once Foti and Frost were contained and the Tigers' defence had its busiest day in weeks.

NORTHERN TIGERS .....? *(scorers)*
MACARTHUR RAMS .....? *(scorers)*

NORTHERN TIGERS: Andrew Crews, Michael Mouyis, Anthony Oppedisano, Danny Hurwitz, Damon Thompson (C), Jason Mesiti (Tom Mikulski 82), Cameron Jones, Erik Paartalu, Matt Hunter (Nick Fenia 46), Adam Foti, Marcus Frost (Matt Godwin 82)
Sub not used: RGK Ivan Aul, Maurice Alberti,
Coach: Fred Mesiti

MACARTHUR RAMS: Philip Zabaks, Jeff Suzor, Adel Eljamal, Wes Horne (C), Richard Harrison, Brad Wither, Ben Evans, Matt Thompson, Matt Toogood, Paul Wither, Andrew Borg (Michael Dowling 70)
Sub not used: RGK Rob Cruickshank, Michael Lakim, Joseph Duffell, Aidan Matthews
Coach: Washington Gonzales

Referees: Peter Vrtkovski, Peter Apostolou
Assistant Referees: Marc Nemorin and Adel Soliman
Fourth Official: Peter Apostolou/Peter Vrtkovski
Yellow Cards: Northern Tigers: Michael Mouyis 55

Veteran striker Eric Williams could not save Liverpool MSC from a 3-0 whitewash against WSL's high flyers the Stanmore Hawks. For a full report turn to page 23

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 15:

FIRST GRADE: Hajduk Wanderers United 3 (T Gledhill 9m A Mrdjen 32/59m) Hurstville City Minotaurs 0, Fraser Park Dragons 0 Dulwich Hill 2 (G Souris 70m D Borg 93m), Northern Tigers 2 (J Mesiti 30m E Paartaulu 54m) Macarthur Rams 2 (N Thompson 33/86m), Sydney University 0 Fairfield Bulls 1 (S Isa 73m), Ryde City 0 Sutherland Shire Sharks 1 (I MacDonald 66m), Stanmore Hawks 3 (S Baillie 72m N Philippou 80m M Soler 89m) MSC Liverpool 0.

GRADE 20: Hajduk Wanderers United 6 Hurstville City Minotaurs 2, Fraser Park Dragons 2 Dulwich Hill 3, Northern Tigers 2 Macarthur Rams 2, Sydney University 3 Fairfield Bulls 1, Ryde City 0 Sutherland Shire Sharks 3, Stanmore Hawks 2 MSC Liverpool 5.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Stanmore Hawks	15	10	2	3	31	15	16	32
Hajduk Wanderers	15	9	1	5	21	16	5	28
Manly Warringah	14	9	0	5	20	13	7	27
Fraser Pk Dragons	15	7	3	5	22	16	6	24
Hurstville ZSC	14	7	3	4	22	17	5	24
Fairfield Bulls	15	7	2	6	23	17	6	23
Macarthur Rams	15	6	5	4	29	26	3	23
Sydney University	15	6	4	5	16	15	1	22
Sutherland Sharks	15	6	1	8	22	28	-6	19
Northern Tigers	15	5	3	7	24	26	-2	18
Hurstville City Min	15	4	4	7	19	25	-6	16
Dulwich Hill	15	5	1	9	19	29	-10	16
M.S.C. Liverpool	15	4	2	9	17	23	-6	14
Ryde City	15	2	3	10	11	30	-19	9

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE GRADE 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Manly Warringah	14	13	1	0	50	12	38	40
Hajduk Wanderers	15	9	2	4	33	21	12	29
Fraser Pk Dragons	15	8	4	3	34	20	14	28
Sutherland Sharks	15	9	1	5	27	16	11	28
Dulwich Hill	15	8	3	4	36	19	17	27
Northern Tigers	15	7	5	3	27	18	9	26
Fairfield Bulls	15	7	3	5	30	27	3	24
M.S.C. Liverpool	15	5	4	6	27	28	-1	19
Macarthur Rams	15	5	2	8	23	28	-5	17
Sydney University	15	4	2	9	20	29	-9	14
Hurstville City Min	15	4	1	10	13	41	-28	13
Stanmore Hawks	15	4	0	11	15	36	-21	12
Hurstville ZSC	14	3	2	9	19	32	-13	11
Ryde City	15	2	2	11	11	38	-27	8

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 16:

FIRST GRADE: The Wanderers 2 (O Valderrama 15m J Aranga 35m) Hills United 1 (J Miller 90m), Schofields Scorpions 5 (H Merdanovic 11/61m D Langan 45m penalty S Cevenini 62m R Hutchinson 74m) Wollongong United 0, Nepean Association 4 (S Erel 47m G McPherson 63m C Lima 88m G Orcajo 90m) Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1 (C Isaac 68m), Western Rage 6 (K Holbrook 29/51/54/71m I Arrarte 39m G Wakim 41m) White City 1 (Z Alavanja 86m), Liverpool Bossy 2 (M Reveley 5m N Codmani 11m) Bathurst 75 1 (L Taylor 84m), Belmore Hercules 3 (J Melissourgos 54m P Paras 75m H Sevgin 81m) Fairfield City Lions 1 (Own Goal 78m), Mt Pritchard 1 (P Cotte 55m) Camden Tigers 0.

GRADE 20: The Wanderers 2 Hills United 1, Schofields Scorpions 7 Wollongong United 2, Nepean Association 4 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Western Rage 5 White City 1, Liverpool Bossy 1 Bathurst 75 2, Belmore Hercules 0 Fairfield City Lions 5, Mt Pritchard 2 Camden Tigers 2.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Nepean Association	16	10	4	2	38	18	20	34
Liverpool Bossy	16	10	3	3	34	22	12	33
Wollongong United	16	10	1	5	34	19	15	31
Fairfield City Lions	16	9	4	3	37	27	10	31
Western Rage	16	9	3	4	46	28	18	30
Hills Utd Brumbies	16	8	3	5	34	24	10	27
Mt Pritchard	16	8	1	7	26	22	4	25
White City	16	7	1	8	26	28	-2	22
Belmore Hercules	16	5	4	7	18	25	-7	19
The Wanderers	16	5	3	8	26	35	-9	18
S'fields Scorpions	16	3	5	8	26	37	-11	14
Bathurst '75	16	3	5	8	19	30	-11	14
Camden Tigers	16	2	5	9	13	32	-19	11
Mt Druitt Town Ran	16	0	4	12	14	44	-30	4

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE GRADE 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Nepean Association	16	13	1	2	38	16	22	40
Western Rage	16	11	3	2	58	20	38	36
Mt Pritchard	16	11	2	3	49	22	27	35
S'fields Scorpions	16	10	2	4	36	21	15	32
Mt Druitt Town Ran	16	9	2	5	39	20	19	29
Hills Utd Brumbies	16	8	2	6	38	20	18	26
Camden Tigers	16	7	3	6	28	27	1	24
White City	16	7	3	6	38	43	-5	24
The Wanderers	16	6	1	9	37	39	-2	19
Bathurst '75	16	5	1	10	17	42	-25	16
Fairfield City Lions	16	3	5	8	25	33	-8	14
Belmore Hercules	16	4	2	10	21	38	-17	14
Liverpool Bossy	16	2	2	12	20	48	-28	8
Wollongong United	16	1	1	14	21	76	-55	4

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO: ROUND 12:

FIRST GRADE: Auburn Stars 3 (E Elveren 8m S Jordan 22m R Giometti 78m) Blacktown Districts 2 (L Granata 55m A Palumbo 75m), UNSW 2 (A Emery 20m N Kodomichalos 38m penalty) Prospect United 0, Greystanes SC 2 (A Eid 16m pen D Falcon 68m) Hakoah 2 (D Karpes 51m D Deutsch 96m), Southern Star Sharks 1 (T Boustani 60m) Inter Lions 3 (J Lagana 34m F Zarrella 80/88m), Greenisland SC 0 Hawkesbury City 5 (G Hartge 44m J Edwards 50m M Sluiter 74m R Healey 80/87m).

GRADE 21: Auburn Stars 1 Blacktown Districts 2, UNSW 7 Prospect United 0, Greystanes SC 0 Hakoah 1, Southern Star Sharks 0 Inter Lions 6, Greenisland SC 0 Hawkesbury City 4.

GRADE 19: Auburn Stars 0 Blacktown Districts 1, UNSW 6 Prospect United 2, Greystanes SC 0 Hakoah 1, Southern Star Sharks 0 Inter Lions 6, Greenisland SC 0 Hawkesbury City 4, Greystanes SC 3 Hakoah 2, Southern Star Sharks 0 Inter Lions 0, Greenisland SC 5 Hawkesbury City 4.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Auburn Stars	11	6	2	3	20	12	8	20
Inter Lions	10	6	1	3	25	12	13	19
Blacktown Districts	11	6	1	4	21	20	1	19
Springwood	10	5	2	3	12	8	4	17
Hakoah	11	5	2	4	20	19	1	17
Hawkesbury City	11	3	6	2	19	16	3	15
Southern Star	11	4	3	4	15	15	0	15
Greystanes	11	4	3	4	14	15	-1	15
UNSW	11	3	1	7	11	19	-8	10
Prospect United	11	2	3	6	12	23	-11	9
Greenisland SC	10	1	4	5	12	22	-10	7

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO GRADE 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown Districts	11	7	2	2	24	15	9	23
Inter Lions	10	7	1	2	40	11	29	22
UNSW	11	6	3	2	48	11	37	21
Hakoah	11	5	4	2	21	12	9	19
Springwood	10	5	3	2	30	9	21	18
Hawkesbury City	11	4	5	2	26	11	15	17
Greystanes	11	3	5	3	14	15	-1	14
Southern Star	11	2	4	5	18	32	-14	10
Greenisland SC	10	3	0	7	17	27	-10	9
Prospect United	11	2	3	6	16	35	-19	9
Auburn Stars	11	0	0	11	11	87	-76	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO GRADE 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
UNSW	11	9	0	2	36	9	27	27
Greenisland SC	11	8	0	3	32	19	13	24
Inter Lions	11	7	1	3	38	11	27	22
Hakoah	11	7	1	3	33	17	16	22
Hawkesbury City	11	5	1	5	25	24	1	16
Blacktown Districts	11	5	1	5	17	19	-2	16
Prospect United	11	4	2	5	25	28	-3	14
Springwood	10	3	2	5	12	20	-8	11
Southern Star	11	2	4	5	15	22	-7	10
Greystanes	11	2	3	6	17	25	-8	9
Auburn Stars	11	0	1	10	7	63	-56	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE - ROUND 12:

FIRST GRADE: Balmain SC 1 Trasandinos 4, Colo Colo 4 Kellyville Kolts 2, Gazy Lansvale 3 Lithgow Workmen 2, Earlwood Wanderers 1 East Coast Magic 0, Gladesville United 2 Sydney Cedars SC 5, New Sporting SCC 1 Roosters FC 3.

RESERVE GRADE: Balmain SC 5 Trasandinos 2, Colo Colo 3 Kellyville Kolts 2, Gazy Lansvale 1 Lithgow Workmen 2, Earlwood Wanderers 0 East Coast Magic 3, Gladesville United 2 Sydney Cedars SC 3, New Sporting SCC 1 Roosters FC 1.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Balmain SC	12	9	0	3	41	20	21	27
Trasandinos	12	8	2	2	31	16	15	26
East Coast Magic	11	8	1	2	31	17	14	25
Kellyville Kolts	12	8	0	4	30	23	7	24
Sydney Cedars SC	12	7	0	5	39	23	16	21
Colo Colo	11	6	1	4	25	22	3	19
Gazy Lansvale	10	4	1	5	17	16	1	13
Gladesville United	12	3	4	5	23	26	-3	13
Earlwood Wand	12	3	1	8	11	30	-19	10
Roosters FC	12	2	3	7	23	34	-11	9
Lithgow Workmen	12	2	2	8	15	37	-22	8
Sporting SCC	12	1	3	8	10	32	-22	6

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE RESERVE GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Balmain SC	12	10	2	0	62	13	49	32
Trasandinos	12	6	3	3	31	23	8	21
Kellyville Kolts	12	6	3	3	26	19	7	21
Colo Colo	11	5	4	2	26	18	8	19
Gladesville United	12	4	6	2	30	18	12	18
Sydney Cedars SC	12	5	3	4	24	16	8	18
Earlwood Wand	12	5	2	5	26	17	9	17
East Coast Magic	11	4	4	3	19	11	8	16
Roosters FC	12	4	2	6	22	23	-1	14
Sporting SCC	12	2	2	8	9	51	-42	8
Lithgow Workmen	12	1	2	9	10	39	-29	5
Gazy Lansvale	10	1	1	8	13	50	-37	4

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Juniors meet Socceroos

Ten lucky NSW junior players were chosen to be part of a Qantas Socceroo launch at the Opera House in April. Here are a few happy faces of youngsters meeting their heroes.

(Main Photo) NSW juniors with Socceroos (from left) Max Vieri, Jade North, Ante Milicic, Ahmad Elrich, Mile Sterjovski and Steve Laybutt

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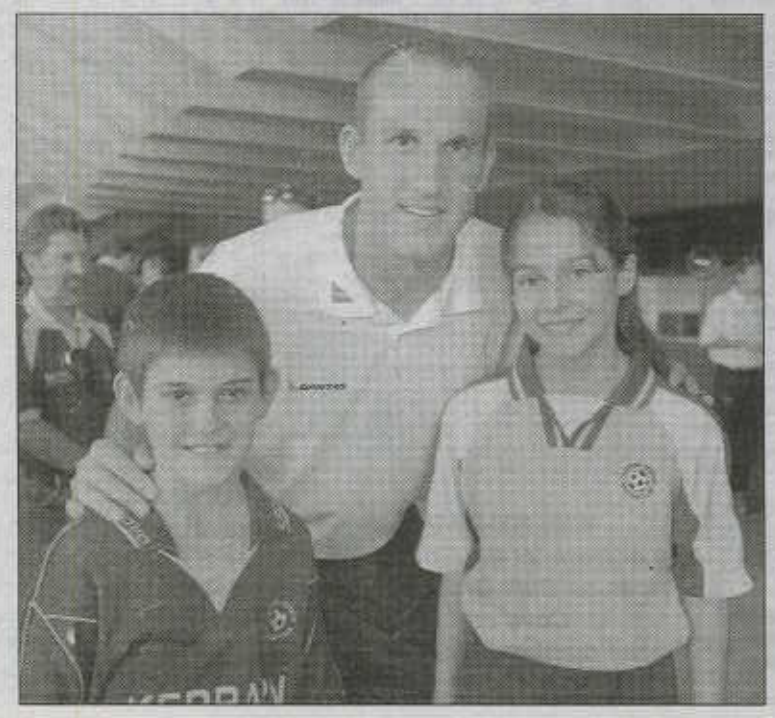
(Top Left) Coerver wonder boy Terry Antonis collects the autograph of Socceroo Brett Emerton, a former Macarthur junior whos made the big time with Blackburn Rovers in England.

(Top Right) Lauren Gardner & Patrick Savor from St George Association, football home of many Socceroos, including David Zdrilic

(Bottom Left) Natalie Kapovic & Brett Anderson from Southern Districts, with former Marconi junior now Socceroo keeper Mark Schwarzer of Middlesbrough in England.

(Bottom Right) Ryan Hunter & Jaimie Van Woerkon made the trip from the Illawarra to the Opera House, making up a Wollongong gang with three Socceroos from the region, from left, Mile Sterjovski, Steve Laybutt & Scott Chippefield.



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Lively Minotaurs gored by Hajduk

By Paul Goodwin

HAJDUK WANDERERS UNITED 3 HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS 0

Hajduk Wanderers returned to winning form against a youthful Hurstville City Minotaurs at Hajduk Stadium on Saturday night.

Going into the game without skipper Sam Panagakis, and with very little experience at the back, the Minotaurs played a lively game of football, but were always under pressure from an attack that had plenty of guile and speed.

Spiro Kladis wore the captain's mantle for the first time as it was his last game before heading overseas but, operating in his customary position wide on the right, he really would have been better valued at the back, for his guidance, which is where he wound up late in the game.

The Minotaurs were a little naive in leaving gaps wide enough for players like Tim Gledhill, Anthony Mrdjen and Navid Varess, who tormented the youngsters time and time again.

However when going forward, the Minotaurs always looked the part and toiled away well, but the seasoned campaigner and Hajduk captain, Mark Abi-Arrage, had their measure, though he and his fellow defenders were kept busy all evening.

The Hurstville side never threw in the towel at any stage but they were a goal down fairly early in proceedings.

Sarikakis pushed on Kosta Lagoudakis, to play a wide defensive role, half an hour into the game and that certainly strengthened the visitors overall, but the Gledhill sucker punch after just minutes had already been delivered and that was enough to keep the visitors on the back foot.

Just nine minutes into the game Gledhill found some space on the left and was able to bear down on goal with venom. His favoured left foot, unable to deliver a goal in some weeks, was there to drive the ball hard at George Bouropoulos who could not get enough on it to stop it bouncing over the line with the surface of the pitch probably having a lot to do with the keeper's difficulties.

Gledhill was on course again three minutes later but was brought undone by a good tackle inside the area this time.

Hajduk keeper Daniel Schwarzer had to be at his best in the 15th to deny Kladis who had been put through and a minute later the dangerous Demetri Zakilas was there with a fierce header following a corner on the right which the keeper parried well only for Wasim Hijazi to steer the loose ball just wide.

Navid Varess skipped past the last Hurstville defender in the 18th minute and with Gledhill in support elected to go for goal only to get his angle wrong right in front and steer the ball wide of the right hand upright.

There was nothing in the game at this stage and the Wanderers could have rued their lost chances as the Minotaurs attack continued to present problems.

A 25th minute header from Hijazi was well stopped by Schwarzer who then did well to stop the follow-up effort from Zakilas.

In the 30th Hajduk extended their lead when the ball was lost with a stray pass deep in Wanderers' territory and Gledhill was spotted out wide on the right. The tall striker appeared to have his work cut out keeping the ball in play, but keep it in he did and his pinpoint cross just in from the by line was met by Ante Mrdjen, with a low shot, that the Hurstville keeper appeared to misjudge in the shadows of the goalmouth.

That second goal sank the visitors.

The keeper was then forced to save with his legs from Gledhill in the 37th while there was a glimmer of hope for the Minotaurs in the 43rd when Manuel Sarikakis found Dominic Hudap only for the busy midfielder to see Schwarzer push his shot away to safety.

The Minotaurs kept attacking with relish and in the 58th minute it needed a stout tackle from Robert Kuman to deny Hijazi, who had picked up a poor clearance out of defence and looked set to score.

The twin strikers for Hajduk, Gledhill and Mrdjen, both combined to score the third goal in the 61st. The pair exchanged passes before Gledhill slipped the ball through for Mrdjen to get the better of Carlo Musemici inside the area and hit the back of the net powerfully.

Hurstville worked hard to try and get at least one goal out of the game, but it never came. The Hajduk clean sheet was largely due to Schwarzer's efforts - none more typical than his save in the 66th from Zakilas.

Kladis on the right laid on the pass for the youngster but once more the keeper was able to save at close range when looking beaten.

Overall Hajduk were the superior side and never looked like losing. The Hurstville side, however, gave a good account of themselves and made a game of it, constantly testing a disciplined home defence. It was a good spectacle for a smallish Saturday night crowd.

HAJDUK WANDERERS UNITED: Daniel Schwarzer (Matt Nemes 71'), Robert Kuman, Michael McGovern, Mark Abi-Arrage (C), George Issa, Mark Iorfino, Navid Varess, Brendan Salameh (Tuan Cao 67'), Anthony Mrdjen, Chris Camilleri; Tim Gledhill
Subs not used: Sefer Yildiz, Elsid Barkhousir, Daniel Wilkinson
Coach: Bruce Till

HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS: George Bouropoulos, Carlo Musemici, Pieros Vasilareas, George Lagoudakis, Joseph Lampriers (Kosta Lagoudakis 31'), Modar Sultan, Spiro Kladis (C), Manuel Sarikakis, Dominic Hudap, Wasim Hijazi (Tim Mascarelo 73'), Demetri Zakilas
Subs not used: RGK: George Nicolaou, Merino Musemici, Manuel Kaliamis
Coach: Peter Sarikakis

Referee: Jonathon Streater
Assistant Referees: Sharon O'Neill and Chris Griffiths-Jones
Fourth Official: Kurt Ams
Yellow Cards: Nil

FRASER PARK 0 DULWICH HILL 2

Dulwich Hill are back on the road to Super League respectability posting their second win in three starts to defeat Fraser Park 2-0 at Fraser Park.

Traditional rivals from way back, the game produced yet another dour physical contest, the game only blown open inside the last twenty minutes as both defences sought to impose themselves on the match.

Dulwich Hill had striker Steve Karavatakis fail a late fitness test, his replacement, the lively Johnny Chavez, had another strong outing. With Tanju Balabanel leading the way early, Fraser Park missed a couple of excellent chances inside the first ten minutes, the best of which saw an Archie Markopoulos skim the top of the crossbar as he beat his man and sliced his shot on a tight angle.

Chavez did likewise at the other end as he slipped in between Alex Leris and Ante Juric well inside the penalty box, only to see a tame shot taper wide of the left-hand upright.

In the second half, the chances were few and the defence continued to rule the match until a lucky goal by Dulwich Hill's George Souris saw the game come alive.

A cross from John Kelso on the left saw the ball ricochet through a couple of pairs of legs, Fraser unable to clear any further than Souris who was lurking just outside the six yard box, his toe poke enough to give his side a 1-0 lead.

Pushing men forward to search for an equaliser Fraser Park elected to go man for man at the back, Alex Leris unable to do much but pull down Chavez in the dying stages of the match, with Daniel Borg stepping up to convert the penalty.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 0 FAIRFIELD BULLS 1

Hugh McCrory's Fairfield Bulls recorded just their second win in six starts defeating Sydney University 1-0 at University Oval.

Dropping the enigmatic Johnny Ghisso to the substitutes bench and without the holidaying Ryan Jones, the Bulls went into the match as underdogs and struggled to get any real rhythm going in the first half.

The game was all Uni, but sadly for coach Stewart Porter and his side they blew any number of ways to score goals. Rob Smithies playing in behind dual strikers Peter Satos and Josh Sama providing the inspiration as they missed two one on ones and had three great shots saved by an acrobatic goalkeeping display from the Bulls number one Claudio Fernandez.

The defining moment of the match came in the 73rd minute when Sam Isa squeezed in between two defenders and knocked a low trickling shot in under an advancing James Meyer.

The Bulls then had to survive a late rally from the students who threw everything at the visitors for the final fifteen minutes, but were again denied by some defending from substitute Michael Cindric and Mick Oliverio, and goalkeeper Fernandez.

"A draw would have been a more fitting result," said McCrory. "Sydney Uni are a very solid team but they played in patches and fell asleep midway through the second half allowing us to score the winner."

STANMORE HAWKS 3 MSC LIVERPOOL 0

The League leaders Stanmore Hawks were too big, too strong and too experienced for MSC Liverpool who were lucky to escape from Arlington Oval with just a 3-0 loss.

The Hawks hit the woodwork three times during the match which could have doubled the final three-goal figure.

Well led by Chad Gibson, Omar Obied and midfield dynamo Sam Awad, the Hawks stretched MSC almost at will, but true to their form the visitors scrambled well and held out their more fancied opponents for over an hour before they quite simply ran out of puff.

Scott Baillie scored goal number one in the 72nd minute when he met a Pablo Cardozo cross at the back post and powered home a header. Eight minutes later Neil Phillipou worked a move with Sam Awad and then released Gibson down the left hand touchline.

Cutting into the penalty box and beating a defender Gibson then squared a pass to Phillipou who found the net with a first time strike.

In the 89th minute Maurice Soler sauntered forward and hit a left-foot shot from just inside the area to leave the final score 3-0.

"It was a five star performance from the team," said a very happy Hawks boss Sotiri Mavros.

"Everybody played their part and I was very happy with the way we dominated the game and wore down our opponents in the second half."

Mavros was without the services of goalkeeper Con Anastasiadis who was overseas on holidays.

His replacement Hamish McLeod kept a cleansheet and did well though he was partly to blame for Liverpool's best chance of the match midway through the first half when he dropped a shot from Pat Polito, but Anthony Skoulos made good ground to clear the ball off the line.

Polito was later involved in an incident when he clashed heads with the Hawks John Fotiadis, requiring both players to be replaced and taken to hospital for treatment.

RYDE CITY 0 SUTHERLAND SHARKS 1

Ryde City's woes continued when they were edged out 1-0 by the struggling Sharks at Magdala Oval.

With new signing, Matthew Engele, partnering Simon Turner up front the Gunners were a touch unlucky not to come away with at least a point, but threw away their chance with some poor ball control in their front third.

After watching Anthony Sarmonikas and Damon Collina both miss good chances inside the first ten minutes the Gunners came back in the 20th minute with Steve Baveas releasing Turner who miscued his strike into the waiting arms of goalkeeper Adam Kurtz.

The best chance of the half was taken by Badolato in the 36th minute who hit a rising 25m shot which cannoned off the top right hand corner of the goal and rebounded harmlessly back into play.

The Sharks had the first chance after the break when Matt Hilton shot and the big man in the Ryde goal Tony Petrovski launched himself to the left to save.

Ryde had reshuffled moving Turner back and pushing Ollie Skelding up and it almost paid off with a Skelding cross from the right being saveck and pushing Ollie Skelding up and it almost paid off with a Skelding cross from the right being saved at fingertip height by Kurtz.the rescue bundling in wide.

In the 66th minute the Sharks battled through a packed defense but were forced wide, however Corey Pendlebury pulled up injured from the tackle and the ball was slipped inside for Ian McDonald to slot home.

The Sharks survived a late charge from Ryde who had Engele narrowly miss from distance, before Petrovski tipped a McDonald shot over the crossbar with just seconds remaining.

The win breathed some life into the Sutherland season, which sees them, move to ninth position.

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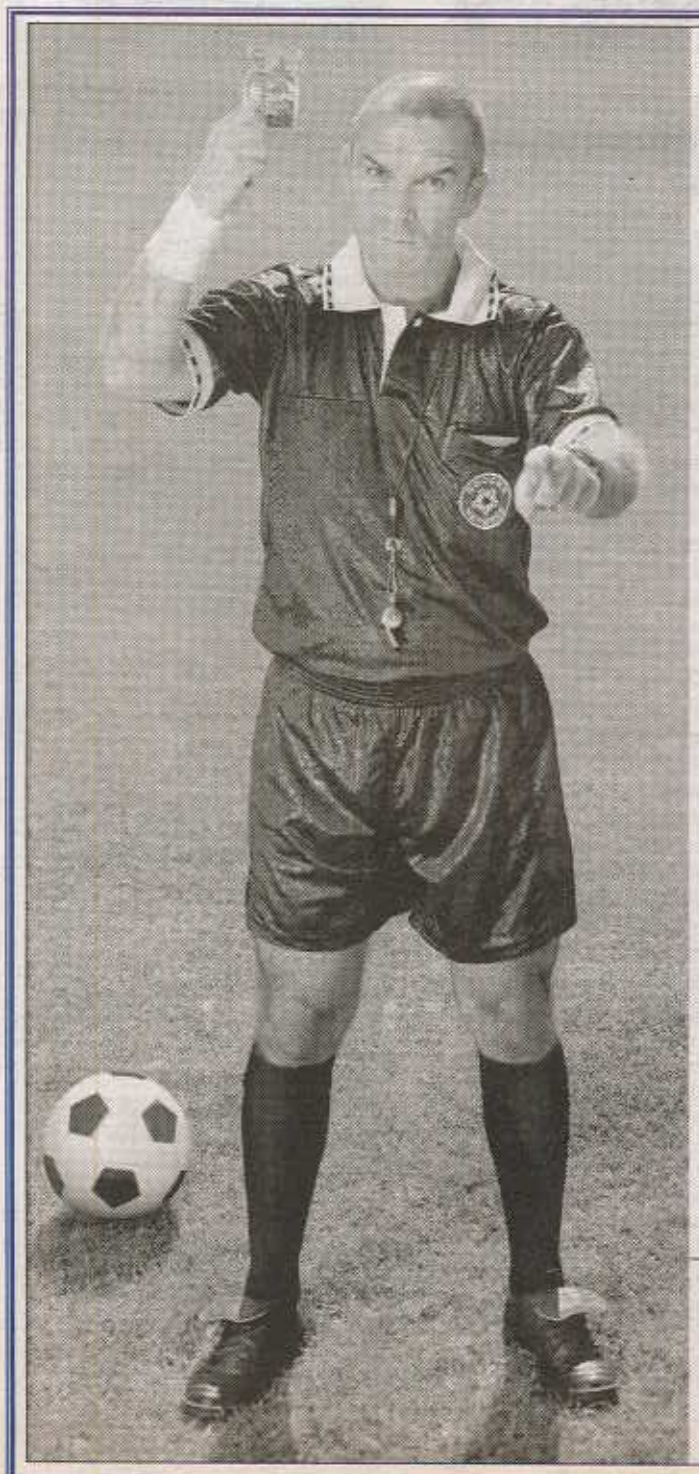

You'll see red if you miss Euro 2004.

Euro 2004 continues this week so if you don't get your bets on in time you'll have to wait another four years. SportsTAB is offering a number of betting options on the tournament as well as plenty of betting options on all games. Just make sure you get your bets on because the penalty or missing out could be very costly.

RESULT — GREECE V SPAIN	
Greece	$5.40
Draw	$3.25
Spain	$1.85

RESULT — RUSSIA V PORTUGAL	
Russia	$4.90
Draw	$3.80
Portugal	$1.58

TOURNAMENT WINNER	
France	$3.00
Italy	$5.50
Spain	$6.00
Holland	$8.00
Czech Republic	$10.00
Portugal	$11.00
England	$11.00
Germany	$17.00
Sweden	$26.00
Denmark	$51.00
Greece	$51.00
Croatia	$81.00
Bulgaria	$151.00
Switzerland	$151.00
Russia	$201.00
Latvia	$501.00

CORRECT SCORE — GREECE V SPAIN	
Greece (1-0)	$9.00
Greece (2-0)	$21.00
Greece (2-1)	$17.00
Greece (3-0)	$67.00
Greece (3-1)	$61.00
Greece (3-2)	$51.00
Greece (4-0)	$101.00
Greece (4-1)	$101.00
Greece (5-0)	$151.00
Greece (5-1)	$151.00

TOURNAMENT TOP GOAL SCORER*	
Thierry Henry (France)	$5.00
Christian Vieri (Italy)	$8.00
Ruud Van Nistelrooy (Holland)	$8.50
David Trezeguet (France)	$13.00
Michael Owen (England)	$15.00
Fernando Morientes (Spain)	$15.00
Raul Gonzalez (Spain)	$17.00
Pauleta (Portugal)	$17.00
Patrick Kluivert (Holland)	$2[illegible].00
Deco (Portugal)	$26.00
Milan Baros (Czech Republic)	$26.00
Kevin Kuranyi (Germany)	$31.00
Francesco Totti (Italy)	$31.00
Fernando Torres (Spain)	$31.00
Roy Makaay (Holland)	$34.00
Henrik Larsson (Sweden)	$34.00

*others quoted

Draw (0-0)	$7.00
Draw (1-1)	$7.00
Draw (2-2)	$17.00
Draw (3-3)	$67.00
Spain (1-0)	$7.00
Spain (2-0)	$7.00
Spain (2-1)	$7.00
Spain (3-0)	$13.00
Spain (3-1)	$11.00
Spain (3-2)	$26.00
Spain (4-0)	$34.00
Spain (4-1)	$31.00
Spain (5-0)	$51.00
Spain (5-1)	$41.00
Scores Not Quoted	$26.00

CORRECT SCORE — RUSSIA V PORTUGAL	
Portugal (2-0)	$7.00
Portugal (2-1)	$7.00
Draw (1-1)	$7.00
Portugal (1-0)	$8.00
Russia (1-0)	$9.00
Portugal (3-1)	$10.00
Portugal (3-0)	$11.00
Draw (0-0)	$13.00
Draw (2-2)	$15.00
Russia (2-1)	$17.00
Russia (2-0)	$21.00

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